

Character Under Construction
“Inside Out” (Galatians 5:16-26)

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Galatians 5:19-23 *“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

- There are not 9 fruits of the Spirit; it is 1 FRUIT, with 9 QUALITIES.
- When it comes to building our character, there are two forces at play:
 - Our SPIRIT man
 - Our FLESHLY man

Verse 17 *“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”*

- One of the greatest dangers in the Christian life is COMPLACENCY, the temptation to imagine oneself untouchable and resistant to the allurements of the flesh.

1) WALK by the Spirit

Verses 16-17 *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”*

- This has to do with our PROXIMITY.

2) LED by the Spirit

Verse 18 *“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

- This has to do with our OBEDIENCE.

3) LIVE by the Spirit

Verse 25 *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”*

- This has to do with our ACTIVITY.

4) Keep in STEP with the Spirit

- This has to do with our TIMING.