

# Walk in the Spirit

by Wayne Goff

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. — Galatians 5:22-25***

In the above passage of Scripture, the apostle Paul argues for a particular lifestyle of the Christian. His argument is as follows:

1. **The Christian has killed the flesh and does not walk in its lifestyle.**
2. **The Christian lives in the Spirit and walks in the Spirit.**
3. **The Christian's life is filled with the fruit of the Spirit, evidencing that he is walking in the Spirit.**

It is also necessarily implied that if the Christian's life does **not** give evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, then that Christian has gotten "side-tracked" in his service to God, and is therefore in great danger. The lifestyle of the Spirit and the lifestyle of the flesh are so contrary to each other that one cannot live in both at the same time, Galatians 5:16-17! When Paul gives us the catalog of the fruit of the Spirit, it is for the purpose of examining our lives to see how we walk and also for the purpose of making any necessary adjustments so that our lives are more "in tune" with God. In future articles, we will study each of the listed items called the "fruit of the Spirit." There are ten given by Paul in Galatians.

## Romans 8

In Romans 8, Paul also discusses the "walk ... according to the Spirit" **versus** the "walk according to the flesh" (v. 4). Notice the following contrast in verses 4-9:

Walk According To The Flesh	Scripture	Walk According To The Spirit
Walk in the flesh	<b>Verse 4</b>	Walk in the Spirit
Mind things of the flesh	<b>Verse 5</b>	Mind things of the Spirit
Carnally-minded	<b>Verse 6</b>	Spiritually-minded
Death	<b>Verse 6</b>	Life and Peace
Enmity against God	<b>Verse 7</b>	(Reconciled to God)
Not subject to God's law	<b>Verse 7</b>	(Subject to God's law)
Cannot please God	<b>Verse 8</b>	(Can please God)

Now notice the conclusion again in verse 9: "But you are ... in the Spirit." **Why?** Because "the Spirit of God dwells in you." And you know the Spirit of God dwells in you if the things of the Spirit are in your life. The same argument is made here in Romans 8

that was made in Galatians 5. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian then is not some miraculous, unexplainable thing, but an intelligent, knowable indwelling which gives evidence in the life we live. The Word of God both tells us **how** to have the Spirit dwell in us, and **what** evidence we have as to whether or not this is the case. God commands us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18), and this is done as the Word of God abides in our minds, and the lifestyle of the Spirit is shown in our lives. The **practical value** of this study then is that we can all see for ourselves whether we are "in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5), "in the Spirit" (Rom. 8:9), and in Christ. Faithful saints **are in** the faith, **in** the Spirit, and **in** Christ Jesus. Contrariwise, the faith, the Spirit, and Jesus Christ all dwell in the faithful child of God.

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