

SERMON – “Walking in the Spirit”

A.W. Tozier, cited in *Christianity Today* (12-13-1985), page 46: “If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the NT church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.”

In **apostolic times** people could easily tell that Christians were moved by a **supernatural power**, the Holy Spirit, because of how they spoke, acted, lived, and witnessed (fear; Acts 2:43). People **could tell** that these **EARLY BELIEVERS** were **fully consecrated** to Christ. They were **God-governed** and not man-managed – they **WALKED** in the Spirit!

Is this true in our time? **NO** – Christianity has become **very worldly** to the point where we usually **CAN’T TELL** the **difference between** those who profess Christ and **those who don’t**. Christianity today is a **carnal, man-managed Christianity** not a spiritual, God-governed Christianity. Reality – “Biblical Christianity is not popular and popular Christianity is not biblical.” **Most Christians today** are **not** “walking in the Spirit” – they **walk after the flesh** (trust in human strength/human wisdom).

QUESTION: What does it mean to WALK IN THE SPIRIT? There are two special passages that **address this issue directly** and **provide some insights** on **HOW** to WALK in the Spirit. Let’s briefly survey these texts.

ROMANS 8:1-15 – The **apostle Paul** discusses “walking in the Spirit.”

Paul claims that the Spirit **FREES US** from the **power of sin** (dethrone; reign; dominion; Rom. 5:21; 6:1-2; 6:12-15). By the Spirit’s renewing power we learn to **consistently live above** the pull of sinful tendencies (“flesh”) and **EXEMPLIFY** the **righteousness** of the moral law. If we are spiritually-minded (**not carnally-minded**), we’ll “walk in the Spirit” by honoring God’s Moral Law! (Jo. 14:15-17; Heb. 10:15-16; 1 Jo. 3:24).

GALATIANS 5:16-25 – **Paul** discusses “Walking in the Spirit” here also!

Once again, we find here a **repeat** of the **battle** between the “flesh” and the “Spirit.” Paul **contrasts** the works of the flesh (vs. 19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (vs. 22-23). **RE:** old nature/new nature; **SC 43** (greatest battle). **Professed Christians** who consistently demonstrate the **FRUIT of the Spirit** are “walking in the Spirit.” **Sinful tendencies** are **STARVED** and **righteous tendencies** are **FED!** (DA 679; victories).

OTHER WAYS to **describe** “walking in the Spirit”: (1) **abiding in Christ** (1 Jo. 2:6); (2) **daily Spirit renewal** (Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 4:16); (3) **continual obedience** (Acts 5:32); (4) **continuous prayer** (Acts 6:4; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17); (5) **Christ as our ever-present Companion** (Heb. 13:5).

“Walking in the Spirit” boils down to **living** a victorious Christian life, where Christ is **BOTH Savior AND Lord!** This a **life** of **SELF-CONTROL** by the Spirit’s power (Prov. 16:32; token/self-conquest; AA 543). The Bible **promises us victory!** (Matt. 19:26; Phil. 4:13; Rom. 8:1-2; 8:37; Eph. 3:20; Jude 24; 1 Jo. 3:6; 3:9; 4:4; 5:4; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 10:13). I don’t why SDAs fight this! **Good news** (3SM 360; SD 164; Jo. 14:30).

The **most practical way** to “walk in the Spirit” is to identify all of our regular, known choices that we make every day and be sure they are surrendered to Christ consistently so **no conscious rebellion** exists against the revealed will of God for our lives! **RE:** attitude; devotional habits; ministry work; friendships/relationships; internet; media; music; dress/adornment; health/lifestyle; stewardship habits; time management (**COL 342-346**).

GALATIANS 2:20; COLOSSIANS 3:1-11 – “New” person (**Christ in us!**)

RESPONSE: To truly “walk in the Spirit,” we **MUST** believe **that victory over sin** is assured! **RE:** Subway; Food Lion; Winn Dixie; Valerie; 1 Cor. 9:24-27. Are your choices surrendered to God? Do you talk to Jesus continually as your ever-present Companion? Do you honor God’s Law? Do you ask God for victory? Are you **seeking Christ daily** for a **victorious Christian life?** Do people see that you’re different? (**kind/honest/polite**). If so, you are “walking in the Spirit” (**Col. 2:6**).