

growing as maturing multiplying disciples	5 February 2023	Galatians 3:1-3, 5:16-25; 6:7-8
Walk by the Spirit		
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Summary: “Walk by the Spirit,” writes the apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, urging followers of Jesus to surrender to the new way of Christ so that the old way – the way of the flesh – is put to death. In this message, pastor Mike explores this text that gets at the heart of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our flesh, with all its warped desires, self-centredness, and earthly drives, resists the Spirit, but the Spirit has power to overcome the flesh and to form in us the very character traits of Christ. As we continue to “walk by the Spirit”, the Spirit bears fruit in our lives, displaying the life of Jesus in us, showing us to be His disciples.

Read: John 15:1, 4-5; Galatians 3:1-3, 5:16-25; 6:7-8

Big Question:

- What does a disciple of Jesus Christ actually look like in the real world?
- How does one actually function as a disciple of Jesus Christ, 24/7 in the real world?
 - How do you respond to those questions?

Reflecting on these verses

- What stands out to you in these verses?
- How do the verses in **John** & in **Galatians** connect?
- Why is **Galatians 5:16** an important verse for understanding discipleship?
- Why is it important to understand this not as 2 commands but as a command and a promise?
- From these verses (and others) how do you define or describe “*Life in the flesh*” and “*Life in the Spirit*”?
- In **Galatians 5:17** Paul tells us that the **flesh** and the **Spirit** are in conflict or are opposed to one another. How do you see this expressed in the lives of individuals and in society?
- How do you “*walk by the Spirit*”?
- What is significance of **crucifixion** and **surrender** for “*walking by the Spirit*”?
- Paul says that the Spirit desires to reproduce in us the virtues which marked Jesus’ earthly life:

Love	Jesus’ sacrificial, unconditional caring for people.
Joy	Jesus’ delight in the love of His Father which no circumstance can rob.
Peace	Jesus’ inner tranquility, born of His confidence in the goodness and power of His Father.
Patience	Jesus’ ability to endure difficult people and difficult circumstances.
Kindness	Jesus’ tender concern which leads to generosity.
Goodness	Jesus’ integrity, honesty, justice.
Faithfulness	Jesus’ unshakeable confidence in His Father’s promises and His own reputation for keeping His word.
Gentleness	Jesus’ inner freedom from the need to hurt or retaliate.
Self-control	Jesus’ mastery of the tongue, His mastery of human drives and passions.

#	FLESH – sarx	SPIRIT – pneuma
1	Life in the flesh is lived in the body, in the material world, in the “stuff-ness” of creation.	Life in the Spirit is lived in the body, in the material world. Life in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Transcendent God is an earthy life. Not earthly, but earthy. It is all part of God’s intention in creation and in the Incarnation. All the spiritual disciplines involve the body – the NT knows nothing of disembodied spirituality.
2	Life in the flesh is centered in and around the self, the ego. The most frequently used words in the vocabulary of the flesh are “I, Me, Mine, Myself.”	In contrast to life in the flesh, life in the Spirit is centered in & around the Living God. There has been a shift in centre – a huge shift! There has been a kind of Copernican revolution: the ego has moved out of the centre and the Triune God has moved in, blessed be His name!
3	Life in the flesh is therefore a) self-oriented (me first); b) self-directed (my vision); c) self-governed (I did it my way, no one is going to tell me how to live); d) self-empowered (give us enough time and better technology, and we will repair the world.)	Life in the Spirit is: a) God-oriented (Your name be hallowed); b) God-governed (Your kingdom come); c) God-directed (Your will be done) d) God-empowered (We cannot, but You can!)
4	The goal of life in the flesh is to build one’s own reputation and kingdom, establishing & maintaining one’s own name & rule.	The goal of life in the Spirit is God’s reputation and kingdom – God’s fame and reign.
5	The basic drive of the flesh is control. Since I am the centre, since I am master of my own life, since it is all up to me, I must control the world around me.	Life in the Spirit is not driven to control. Because I am not the centre anymore, and because it is no longer all up to me to make the world go round, I can let go of control & rest in the control of the Living God who loves me.