

# Walk by the Spirit

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” --Gal 5:16

## THE WORD

What book gives us the knowledge of God? The Bible. We also call it the word of God, Scripture, the Scriptures, and the Holy Bible. It was written by men of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Is it reasonable to believe? Yes! Manuscript evidence, archaeology, the unity of Scripture, and fulfilled prophecy are just a few of the areas that show us that the Bible is unique and true. We should believe it because of what Jesus Christ said about it (John 10:35, 17:17). The Bible is God’s message to man. God gave it to us to reveal Jesus Christ (John 20:31), to reveal His plan of salvation (2 Timothy 3:15), to help us grow (1 Peter 2:2), to guide us (Psalm 119:105), to give us joy (Luke 11:28), and to help us know God (Proverbs 2:1-5). We are to obey it (James 1:22).

## PRAYER

Prayer is communication with God (Psalm 116:1, 2). Communication is essential for a growing relationship. God wants us to talk to Him just as any father likes to hear from his child. He also wants us to ask Him for all the things we need to carry out His plan for our lives. John Wesley said, “God does nothing but in answer to prayer.”

God communicates with us through the Bible and we communicate with Him through prayer. Many Christians combine Bible reading and prayer to have an appointment with God, sometimes called a “quiet time.” This is a daily 10 or 15 minute habit that allows us to speak to God through prayer and that allows us to hear from God through the Bible.

## OBEDIENCE

Now that we are Christians God wants us to put off the old habits and ways that aren’t pleasing to Him, and to put on a new way of living (Colossians 3:5-17). The Bible says, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11, 12).

When a person becomes a Christian, he is not only delivered from the penalty of sin; he is also delivered from the power of sin. Paul learned the secret of living the Christian life: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Christ wants us to allow Him to be Lord of every aspect of our lives. As we obey Him, we demonstrate our love for Him (John 14:21).

## FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The Bible says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” --1 John 1:6-9

God desires that we live in fellowship with Him, but our sin can interrupt our fellowship. Sin can quench (1 Thess. 5:19) and grieve (Eph. 4:30) the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to confess our sins (1 John 1:9). In the original Greek, the word translated as confess is *homologeō*--to speak the same. It means to agree with God about the sin.

### Agreeing with God

We should agree that:

1. It is sin (1 Jn. 3:4, Rom. 14:23).
  2. It is forgiven (Col. 2:13, 14).
  3. We need God to overcome sin (2 Cor. 3:5, Phil. 4:13, Gal. 5:16).
- Then, as an act of faith, we should thank God for forgiving us and restoring us to fellowship with Him (Matt. 21:22, 1 Thess. 5:18).

### FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3,4), the third person of the Trinity (Matt. 28:19,20). When a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit comes into that person to be with him forever (Jn. 14:16, Rom. 8:9, Eph. 1:13). The Holy Spirit can empower us to live godly lives (Acts 1:8) and produce in us the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). What does this mean? Col. 3:16 is a direct parallel to Eph. 5:18. To be filled with the Spirit is to let the Word of Christ dominate us. The Word is the handle by which the Holy Spirit can turn our wills. Being filled with the Spirit means to be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's will as revealed in the Word of Christ.

In 1 Jn. 5:14, 15, we are promised that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. It is God's will that we be filled with the Spirit.

### Steps for being filled with the Spirit

1. Confess your sins (agree with God about them) to restore fellowship (1 Jn. 1). Thank Him for your forgiveness (Acts 10:43, 1 Thess. 5:18).
2. Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you (Col. 3:16).
3. Ask God to fill you with the Spirit according to His command (Eph. 5:18) and His promise (1 Jn. 5:14, 15).
4. By faith (Matt. 21:22) thank Him for filling you with the Holy Spirit.