

## Holy Spirit Series – Lesson 5

November 9, 2014

### I. Review:

Week 1 - Holy Spirit as an indescribably powerful force and Holy Spirit as a person (with a mind, will, and emotions)  
Week 2 - Holy Spirit convicts the world and saves Christians from their sin as the initiator and originator of salvation  
Week 3 - Holy Spirit indwells us, assures us of our salvation and helps us  
Week 4 - Holy Spirit teaches and leads us as believers.

Today we will be spending our time discussing *how to walk in the Holy Spirit*.

### II. Introduction:

Consider the following statements about how the Holy Spirit makes believers new creations in Christ:

- **Holy Spirit** calls spiritually dead sinners and transforms them into spiritually alive saints in whom He indwells.
- **Holy Spirit** rescues slaves of sin and graciously bestows on them the titles of children and heirs of God.
- **Holy Spirit** liberates those living in complete darkness and fills this completely with His magnificent light.

### III. Discussion and Application: *How to Walk in the Holy Spirit*

However, not only does the Holy Spirit change us in these ways, He also calls us to WALK WITH HIM in obedience as He changes the desires of those He calls – whereas we always desired things of the flesh, we now desire things of God.

#### A. What does it Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

##### Galatians 5:16-18, 22-26

*16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law....22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

These passages come on the heels of Paul warning the believers in Galatia to not “submit again to a yoke of slavery”. The reason for this warning is that false teachers had come into the church and tried to convince the Galatians to revert back to their former Jewish customs and practices in order to please God. In verse 13 Paul reminds the Galatians that in Christ they were called to freedom; however, they were not to use that freedom as an opportunity for their flesh. So it is that in verse 16 Paul says to them, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

Within the passage Paul gives believers a wonderful picture of the end result of walking in the Spirit:

1. Believers WILL NOT “gratify the desires of the flesh” (v. 16-18)
2. Believers WILL “keep in step with the Spirit” or “walk by the Spirit” (v. 25-26)

Conversely, we can learn much about the Christian life in Paul’s simple command to “keep in step with the Spirit” or, depending on the translation, “walk by the Spirit”. *The idea is that we are walking in line behind a leader.* Thus, a major way we can keep in step with the Spirit, or walk with Him, is to ask ourselves questions like, “*What is the Holy Spirit pursuing? What does the Holy Spirit desire?*”

#### B. Three Desires and Pursuits of the Holy Spirit = Three Ways We Can Walk in the Holy Spirit:

If we know what the Holy Spirit is pursuing and what He desires, we will know what to pursue and what we should desire.

##### **1. The Holy Spirit desires and pursues – above all else – His own glory**

###### 1 Peter 4:10-11

*10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen*

The key phrase from this passage is “in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”. In much the same way, Paul says in Romans 9:23 that God desires “to make known the riches of His glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.”

## **2. The Holy Spirit desires and pursues God’s children to know Him better each day**

### **Ephesians 1:15-20**

*15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*

Paul’s prayer is:

- God may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him
- Have our heart enlightened
- Know what is the hope to which he has called you

## **3. The Holy Spirit desires and pursues believers to follow and walk with Him as Christ did – through obedience**

### **Philippians 2:1-8**

*1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

On our own, through our own abilities, these are impossible commands to follow. But the key is found in verse 5: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”.

Our prayer should be that we know the Holy Spirit in an intimate way and walk in joyful obedience of Him.

## **IV. Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. *How would you describe what it means to “walk by the Spirit”?*
2. *Looking at Paul’s two results in Galatians 5 of walking in the Spirit, is it enough to simply avoid sin as a Christian? Can we know God better and more intimately by simply and passively avoiding sin?*
3. *Do you agree with the comment that “we will never fully know God” until you see Him in all His glory as an encouragement or as a discouragement as you pursue your relationship with Him?*
4. *Does actively pursuing God through our obedience to Him help us to know Him in a more intimate way?*
5. *Why does the Holy Spirit often use our minds and our thoughts to guide us into obedience to Him?*
6. *How can the desires of the Holy Spirit – to be glorified, for us to know Him better, and for us to walk in obedience – help us as we walk after Him, in Him, and by Him?*