

## Walking In The Spirit

### Introduction

A. Text – Gal.5:13-26

B. Have you ever tried to fly a plane?

1. Brother in law has a plane – offered me a chance to fly
2. He still had control, but let me try holding the steering wheel
3. See if you can fly level – look at instruments – not easy

C. Reminds me of how things are in life – so many things to be concerned about

1. Especially spiritually speaking - awkward
2. Not used to doing things God's way – very unsteady
3. Movie saw – preacher turn other cheek – what do now?

Left that up to me – hit him (not sure what Lord had in mind)

4. So much like us – trying do right – keep messing up

D. So how do we live righteously?

1. Paul says – walk in the Spirit & not fulfill lusts of the flesh
2. Lesson – discuss what that walk is all about

E. Pray

### I. The Command – Walk by the Spirit

A. **In the book Paul emphasizes the freedom one has in Christ**

1. **Problem** - Many religious saw Christianity as another legal system

- a. A system of laws – rules & regulations to keep perfectly
- b. As if God replaced the Law of Moses with another law system
- c. Goal was perfection – living perfectly in own strength
- d. **Yet Law was never given to save or to sanctify man**

1) Given to reveal God's holy standards & drive man to Jesus

2) Gal.3:21-24 – could never save = only Jesus saves

2. **Why unable to be faithful on our own?**

a. **Flesh is constantly fighting to dominate us**

1) Gal.5:17 – wars against the Spirit

2) **War** = lust after; covet; strong desire for something

3) We have a natural propensity to sin

a) Although new creation – flesh resists

b) Flesh still wants to be carnal

b. **Flesh & Spirit will never peacefully coexist**

1) Are contrary to one another (opposed to; set against)

2) Are natural enemies (opposites)

a) Focus is totally different – always is

b) Rom.8:7,8 – hostile to God – can't please Him

3) Absolutely no way ever be in harmony – Ps.106:14,15

c. **Flesh continually keeps us from doing as want spiritually**

1) Flesh constantly craves more – never satisfied

2) Rom.7:15-20 – even Paul struggled

- d. **Law demands perfection – no room for error**
  - 1) Rom.3:19,20 – every mouth stopped
  - 2) Through Law we only become conscious of sin
- B. Our calling – walk by the Spirit**
  - 1. **Can't save self by Law nor even have sanctification by the Law**
    - a. Law reveals sin but powerless to stop it
    - b. Rom.8:3 – law powerless – weakened by the flesh
    - c. Same true for sanctification – Rom.7:21-23
  - 2. **Holy Spirit is primary person behind our sanctification**
    - a. Without Him – we unable please God
    - b. By His strength we flourish spiritually – Eph.3:16,16
  - 3. **Walk** = present tense = continuous regular action
    - a. Idea – a habitual way of life
    - b. Verb is in imperative mood – command not an option
    - c. **Idea** – as we submit to Spirit we move forward spiritually
  - 4. **Can't just be passive & grow spiritually**
    - a. Must get involved personally
    - b. Rom.8:12-14 – by Spirit put to death = led by Spirit

## II. The Contrast

### **A. When flesh rules**

- 1. They are evident yet Paul reminds us of them
- 2. Man's problems are not outside him – within him
  - a. Mk.7:20-23
  - b. These evils **originate within** man **not** Satan or the world
  - c. Our flesh – sinful nature produce these
  - d. When we give in to the flesh we always fall victim to these
    - 1) Sexual immorality - broad meaning – illicit behavior
    - 2) Impurity – infected oozing wound
    - 3) Debauchery – lack of restraint (sexual excess)
    - 4) Idolatry & witchcraft – man made religions
    - 5) Hatred & discord – hateful attitudes result in strife
    - 6) Jealousy, fits of rage – hateful resentment & unrestrained hostility
    - 7) Selfish ambition, dissention, faction & envy – animosities that fester & cause conflict
    - 8) Drunkenness & orgies – rowdy crude behavior

### **B. When the Spirit dominates us**

- 1. Beautiful attitudes & actions emerge
- 2. No law against – even unbelievers make no laws against them
  - a. May see them as weakness, but never harmful
  - b. Are an outward indicator of salvation

### **III. See The Judgment That Awaits Those Who Don't Walk In The Spirit**

#### **A. Will not inherit the kingdom of God**

1. Man created to have an inheritance with God
  - a. Chosen from beginning – Eph.1:3,4
  - b. Jn.14:1-3 – Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us
2. Fatal mistake think can live any way want & OK spiritually
  - a. Mt.5:20 – righteousness must exceed Scribes & Pharisees
  - b. Only way is by walking in the Spirit

#### **B. What dominates your life – flesh or Spirit?**

1. Key word is practice – present active participle
2. Idea = ongoing action – continual habitual practice
3. To habitually indulge in sin makes one an enemy of God
4. 1 Jn.3:4-10 – to practice sin is to follow the devil

### **Conclusion**

- A. A new year is upon us – let's start it out right
- B. Pray