

Ephesians Series

Lesson #228

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Following the Spirit's Lead
Ephsians 5:15–16; Galatians 5:25



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**The Spirit of God PLUS the Word of God matures
the child of God.**

Clarifying the Role of the Spirit in the Spiritual Life of the Believer

- 1. The Christian life is empowered by two sources: the Word of God and the Spirit of God.**

2. The various commands for walking describe how a person is to live, and how they should not live.

- a. We are to walk worthy of our new calling (Eph. 4:1).
We are to not walk like the Gentiles.**
- b. We are to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).
We are not to walk according to the sin nature (Rom. 8:4. Gal. 5:16; 2 Pet. 2:10).**
- c. We are to walk according to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4),
“by means of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16).**
- d. We are to walk properly as in the day (Rom. 13:13a; 1 Thess. 4:12); walk worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10).
But not in revelry, drunkenness, lewdness, lust, strife or envy or ungodly lusts (Rom. 13:13b; Jude 18).**

- e. We walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7a)
Not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7b)**

- f. We are to walk in good works (Eph. 2:10)
But not in the empty way of thinking of unsaved
Gentiles (Eph. 4:17)**
- g. Walk in love (Eph. 5:2)**
- h. Walk in the light, because we are children of light, no
longer children of darkness (Eph. 5:8)**

- i. Walk in humility (Php. 3:16, 17)**
- j. Walk in the light practicing the truth (1 John 1:6;
3 John 4)**

**ETERNAL
REALITIES**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES**

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”

ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

**Walking BY
THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

**“Being Filled by the
Holy Spirit”**



3. The overriding command I think in all of these is:

Gal. 5:16, “Walk by means of the Spirit,” [~RD]

περιπατέω *peripateō*

**2 plural present active imperative
[emphasizing standard operating
procedure (SOP)]**

literally: “to walk, walk around”

figuratively: “to live life”

4. Summary of these first points is that if we are walking by means of the Spirit, we are walking in the light, He produces genuine humility; we shine as lights in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation (Php. 2:14–15)

Php. 2:14, “Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Php. 2:15, “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”

5. A. The work of the Spirit is always tied to the Word of God. The Spirit of God plus the Word of God matures the Child of God.

John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 4:24, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship by means of the Spirit and truth.”

Eph. 5:18, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit,”**

πληρόω plēroō

2 plur pres pass

imperative

to fill; fulfill

“to fill something

with content”

**Not “control,” but
“influence.” Control
indicates overriding
volitional
responsibility.**

ἐν πνεύματι, en

pneumati,

instrumental dative,

means, “by means

of the Spirit”

It seems best to translate ἐν πνεύματι with an instrumental sense, “by the Spirit” or “by means of the Spirit.” This is analogous to 4:30 where the preposition with the relative pronoun (ἐν ᾧ) is translated “the Spirit ... by whom you were sealed.” ~Hoehner

5. B. We are commanded to be filled by means of the Spirit (passive command) (Eph. 5:18).

πληρόω *plēroō*

**2 plur pres passive
imperative
to fill; fulfill**

**ἐν πνεύματι, *en pneumatī*,
instrumental dative,
means,
“by means of the Spirit”**

And to “let the Word of Christ dwell within you” (Col. 3:16).

**ἐνοικέω *enoikeō* 3 sing
pres active imperative
to dwell in**

Eph. 5:18 describes the means. Col. 3:16 describes the content.

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Results of being filled by the Spirit:

Eph. 5:19, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus

Christ,

Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Results of the Word dwelling richly:

Col 3:16b, “... teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Gal. 5:16, “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

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περιπατέω peripateō

2 plural present active imperative
Literally, to walk,
metaphorically, Describes how a
person lives their life.

The active voice verb means we must be making the responsible choice to walk by the Spirit.

The passive imperative of Eph. 5:18 indicates that while we are walking, we are to choose to receive what the Spirit is teaching us from the Word.

The Command: Gal. 5:16, Walk by means of the Spirit

The Struggle: Gal. 5:17–18

The works of the flesh (the sin nature): Gal. 5:19–21

The fruit of the Spirit: Gal. 5:22–23

The reality: we have crucified the flesh (sin nature) with its passions (see Romans 6:4–6)

Let us walk (different word): Gal. 5:25

Gal. 5:25, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Gal. 5:25, “If we live by means of the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit [follow or walk in the steps of the Spirit].”

**στοιχέω *stoicheō* 1 plur pres act subj
to walk, be in line with (implies an
objective standard to line up with).**

**BDAG: to be in line with a person
or thing considered as standard for
one’s conduct, hold to, agree with,
follow [~HCSB], conform**

i.e., to follow the Spirit.

**How do we do that? Is there a path,
a road, an objective line or path to
follow?**

**Rom. 4:12, “and the
father of circum-
cision to those who
not only *are* of the
circumcision, but
who also walk in the
steps of the faith
which our father
Abraham *had while
still* uncircumcised.”**

Summary:

We are to walk step-by-step by means of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).

As we do, so we have choices in two areas:

- 1. We must choose to let the Holy Spirit fill us, feed us with the Word of God. Eph. 5:18**
- 2. We must let the Word of God by means of the HS richly dwell within us.**
- 3. We follow the path laid out by the Spirit, i.e., the Word of God, the Truth, to stay walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).**