

GROWING IN GRACE

CEDAR CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

*How should we then live?
Practical Christian living in light of the Gospel.*

WEEK 3: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT PART 2

INTRODUCTION

- Last week we looked at what God promised concerning the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
- These truths and promises from God are vital to keep in mind as we start to look at what the Holy Spirit's role is in our Christian life.
- We also read about what Jesus said to His disciples concerning the coming and actions of the Holy Spirit after He ascended.
- The Bible also gave us specific purposes of the coming of the Holy Spirit and we don't want to falter on either end...attributing experiences to Him that are not or not acknowledging His work at all.
- We also discussed what the Bible teaches us about the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the continual filling of the Holy Spirit.
- If we fail to understand these biblical truths, our Christian life can become confusing in our pursuit of holiness and spiritual fruit. We may live frustrated because we don't see the desired results and become ineffective in responding to the Spirit's work.
- Our focus now is on the Holy Spirit and His role in our life as believers in Christ.
- After hearing about the OT promises concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit and how Jesus discussed the Holy Spirit's arrival, I'll ask you the same question from last week:

What do you think walking in the Spirit means?

WALKING IN OR BY THE SPIRIT

- Since we now have the theological data, we have the truth of the Bible, we now need to obey.
- If you remember from last week, the mature Christian, the one who is taking in the solid food is the one who is obeying what they know from the Scriptures.

What are the ministries of the Holy Spirit?

- Often times the work of the Spirit is either unknown or overly exaggerated by Christians.
- We have a general understanding from the Bible of the work of the Holy Spirit.
- We should have a working knowledge of all the ministries that the Holy Spirit is involved with throughout our life.
- The Holy Spirit is most likely far more active than we may know or understand¹:
- He adopts (Rom. 8:15).
- He baptizes (1 Cor. 12:13).
- He bears witness (Acts 5:32; Rom. 8:16; 9:1; 1 John 5:6–8).
- He calls to ministry (Acts 13:2–4).
- He convicts (John 16:8–11).
- He empowers (Ex. 31:1–3; Judg. 13:25; Acts 1:8).
- He fills (Luke 4:1; Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18).
- He guarantees (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14).
- He guards (2 Tim. 1:14).
- He helps (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 2 Tim. 1:14).
- He illuminates (1 Cor. 2:10–13).
- He indwells (Rom. 8:9–11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19).
- He intercedes (Rom. 8:26–27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20; see 1 John 5:14–15).
- He leads (Ps. 143:10; Matt. 4:1; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:1; Acts 20:22–23; Rom. 8:14).
- He produces fruit (Gal. 5:22–23).
- He provides spiritual character (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25).

¹ List taken from, John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 340.

- He regenerates (John 3:5–6, 8; Titus 3:5).
- He reminds (John 14:26).
- He restrains/convicts of sin (Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51; 2 Thess. 2:6–7).
- He resurrects (Rom. 1:4; 8:11).
- He reveals truth (2 Sam. 23:2; Neh. 9:30; Zech. 7:12; John 14:17; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:5).
- He sanctifies (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2).
- He seals (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13–14; 4:30).
- He selects overseers (Acts 20:28).
- He sends (Acts 13:4).
- He strengthens (Eph. 3:16).
- He teaches (John 14:26; Acts 15:28; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- These are all the ways in which the Holy Spirit works both in this world, in your life presently and in your life in the future.
- Some of the ministries on this list are the once off working of the Holy Spirit (He regenerates), some of them are continual ongoing work (He indwells), some of them are occasional work (He calls to ministry), and some of them are a future work (He resurrects).
- The Holy Spirit's work is not singular in actions nor is it sporadic without meaning.
- It is, at times, unseen (illuminating someone to the truth), and it is, at times, seen (someone who is born again).

What would be missing without the Spirit?²

- The existence of the world and everything it contains
- Awareness of our sin and need for Jesus to save us
- New birth and conversion (i.e., becoming a Christian)
- Being united with Christ, justified, and adopted by God
- Sanctification (our progressive maturity in the Christian life)
- Understanding and applying the Bible
- Prayer to God for help, wisdom, and depth of relationship

² List from Allison's *God, Gift, and Guide*, taken from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/walk-spirit/>

- Unity in the church
- Effectiveness in evangelism, mission, and preaching
- Spiritual gifts for building up the church
- Our future resurrected bodies
- The new heaven and new earth
- We need and must understand the purpose and place of the Holy Spirit in our life is far more than just a footnote.

How has walking in the Spirit or being led by the Spirit been taught?

- “It’s an unfortunate reality that division, confusion, and disunity exist around our views on the Spirit. But one of the Spirit’s primary roles is to bring unity to believers and churches. Over and over in Scripture, there’s a direct connection between the Spirit and unity.”³
- As we are going to read in a moment, the profound difference in these definitions is about the operation of the Spirit, the role of man, the necessity of supernatural encouragements, and how the Holy Spirit interacts with the Scriptures.
- There are some who hold that walking the Spirit is about disciplined and deliberate lifestyle of obeying God’s Word through the power of the Spirit.
- Others believe in dynamic interactions with the Spirit for supernatural empowerment to be guided in life and ministry.
- There are some who hold to the believer being an empty vessel, to walk in the Spirit then is to abide, yield, and passively surrender to the Spirit rather than actively fighting the battle.
- The following quotes are from various church leaders and denominations as they have tried to teach and explain what walking or living or being led by the Spirit means.
- “To be led by or to walk in the Spirit means to be governed and guided by His Spirit. This has to do with right belief more than right behavior. It is having a Gospel-centered way of thinking where we rely on God more than trying harder.”⁴
- “Live continually under the sanctifying influence of the indwelling Spirit, who works through the truth of Scripture to mortify sin and produce obedience to Christ.”⁵

³ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/walk-spirit/>

⁴ <https://calvarychapel.com/posts/am-i-walking-in-the-spirit/>

⁵ [Confession and Catechisms: The Orthodox Presbyterian Church](#)

- “Living in conscious dependence upon and obedience to the indwelling Holy Spirit as He progressively conforms the believer to Christ.”⁶
- “Continually yielding oneself to the sanctifying grace and power of the Holy Spirit so that the believer increasingly loves God and neighbor and lives a holy life.”⁷
- “Living continually yielded to the Holy Spirit's presence, direction, sanctifying work, gifts, and supernatural empowerment.”⁸
- “To walk by the Spirit is to live moment by moment in conscious dependence upon the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, submitting to His control through obedience to His revealed Word, actively putting sin to death and pursuing righteousness, with the resulting evidence being the fruit of the Spirit.”⁹
- Each of these views would teach that walking by the Spirit is the only way that Christians are able to successfully fight sin.
- Again, the major differences between these views are not about *should a believer allow sin to be in their life*. Rather, they are about how the Spirit accomplishes His work in the believer, what role the believer plays in their walk with the Spirit, and the possibility of having complete victory over sin in our life.
- Often, these differences will start to show themselves in the focus that a believer has in their walk with the Lord.
- There are 3 main pitfalls which believers can easily fall into as each of these definitions of walking in the Spirit has some inherent blind spots.¹⁰
- When one talks of *passive yielding to the Spirit*, it can easily start to take away the personal responsibility that each believer has in their walk with the Lord.
 - Here’s how it will usually play out. Instead of fighting off temptation or sin, the believer is praying and waiting for a supernatural cleansing to take away that desire.
 - What happens is one gets stuck in either *I can’t win so why try*, or *sin, confess, sin again*.
 - This is obviously exhausting for someone and leads to a life of defeat and depression.

⁶ [Baptist Faith and Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message](#)

⁷ [By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism | UMC.org](#)

⁸ [Assemblies of God \(USA\) Official Web Site | The Fulfilled Life](#)

⁹ [Walking by the Spirit](#)

¹⁰ I have no doubt there are more, but these are the three which seem to be the most prominent.

- When the believer seeks emotions for confirmation or some sort of subjective experience, it can bring on a different type of struggle.
 - Often when someone is “looking for a sign” to know what to do, all of a sudden everything in their life becomes potentially from the Lord.
 - If one’s emotions are the ruling “voice”, then Scripture takes a backseat to how someone may feel about something; not what the Word says.
 - This person can face very “dry” seasons of life with the Lord if their emotions are not bringing them into a good place.
 - This is also the time that someone is more vulnerable to temptation and sin as they look for an emotion instead of God’s Word.
- For those who are active in fighting sin and seek to live a deliberate and disciplined life, in their attempt to pursue holiness in their own strength and not depend upon the power of the Spirit, they fall into legalism and intellectualism.
 - Those who live this way can start to substitute holiness for a checklist of proper behavior.
 - Some lose the personal sense of the Spirit through faith, and their Christian life can start to feel mechanical, simply motivated by their own will power.
 - There is a noticeable loss of spiritual joy, the vitality is gone, and doing ministry becomes just another task to perform.
- What this means is that people tend to lean towards their emotions, their intellect, or they simply feel that they are defeated.
- I believe that each is part of the bigger whole when it comes to walking in the Spirit.
- Believers are to be disciplined, but it is not through their own power...rather it is through the power of the Spirit.
 - **Galatians 3:3** “Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”
 - **Philippians 2:12-13** “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; [13] for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”
 - **Colossians 1:29** “For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

- Believers do have emotions and subjective experiences; they have desires and they have circumstances around them; but none of these possess divine authority. They all must be subjected to and evaluated by the Word of God.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** “Do not quench the Spirit; [20] do not despise prophetic utterances. [21] But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; [22] abstain from every form of evil.”¹¹
 - **1 John 4:1** “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
- Believers are to pray for the strength from the Lord to fight sin, but they are not to just sit and wait for something to happen.
 - **Romans 6:12-13** “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, [13] and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”
 - **Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Here’s is what I believe it means to Walk in the Spirit:

- Union with Christ (salvation) → Baptism and Indwelling of the Spirit → Scripture / Truth → Spirit's illumination, conviction & application of truth / Scripture → Being filled with and under the control of Spirit → Believer Obeys Through the Power of the Spirit → Mortification / Killing Sin (put-off) + Pursuit of Righteousness (put-on) → Fruit of the Spirit / Christlikeness → Progressive Sanctification.
- Don’t think of this as a linear process...we are only saved once; we are only baptized once...but after our salvation our true life and walk with the Lord starts.
- There is an ongoing cycle which takes place *after salvation*:

¹¹ The Holy Spirit's primary function in the church is to illuminate the already revealed Word of God and moral sanctification through it. Therefore, you "quench" the Spirit when you suppress truth, tolerate unholiness, live in unconfessed sin, or refuse to let the Word of God rule the congregation. To "despise" it means to treat the preaching and teaching of God's Word with indifference, boredom, or contempt. People quench the Spirit when they grow tired of hearing sound, text-driven preaching and instead demand entertainment or emotional experiences.

- Word → Illumination / Conviction → Faith → Spirit's Control → Obedience → Mortification & Righteous Practice → Christlike Fruit → Deeper Maturity → Greater Responsiveness to the Word → Further Sanctification.¹²
 - I see this lining up with **Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
- The reason I put this first is that there would be a fundamental understanding of where we are headed in our study on walking in the Spirit.
- As we walk in the Spirit, we are going to be growing, maturing, and developing a deeper understanding of how to apply God’s Word in our hearts, minds, affections, and actions.

How does the Bible describe our relationship with the Spirit?

- “The Spirit is involved in everything needed for creation, salvation, growth, and the renewal of all things. But in all these activities, one thing is at the center of his essence and activity. The Spirit is God’s empowering presence. He isn’t merely omnipresent in a general sense; he’s present with us. The Spirit’s presence means not simply that “God is there” but that ‘God is here.’”
- The spirit of God dwelling in people is the dividing line between those who are born again and those who are not. The Spirit dwells or resides in each believer individually.
 - **Romans 8:9** “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19** “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”
 - **2 Timothy 1:14** “Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”
- You have the Holy Spirit living in you, abiding in you, directing you, reforming you, rebuilding you, leading you, convicting and comforting you.
- This can be a very hard idea for us to understand, since at the moment of salvation we do not “feel” or “look” any different.

¹² https://graceandgranite.org/appendices/02-the-role-of-the-holy-spirit-in-interpretation/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

- But from a spiritual point of view, we have passed from death to life and now we can truly live because we have the Spirit of God living in us.
- “When the Bible speaks of God dwelling in a place or person, we must remember that his is anthropomorphic language. Therefore, God’s dwelling refers to his special presence, his activity to reveal himself and reign in relationship to his people. The Spirit’s indwelling is not about his physical location but a particular kind of action: the Spirit works to manifest God’s special presence with his people. Hence, we cannot reduce indwelling to mere influence; the Holy Spirit is personally present in believers just as God’s glory inhabited the temple in Jerusalem.”¹³
 - This is important to understand as it means that wherever the Lord’s presence is, He is Lord, He is King, and He has the right and ability to do what He desires.
 - He governs our heart, our mind, our will, and our affections as He sees fit.
- Walking in the Spirit can be described as living life step by step in the power of the indwelling Spirit. Because the Spirit resides in the believer, the Christian now possesses divine enablement to obey God’s will rather than simply following the impulses of the flesh.¹⁴
- This means that walking by the Spirit is not about passively surrendering our will, and it is not about self-powered obedience to try and force results.
- It is about our active obedience to God’s Word as we depend upon the power of the Spirit who is indwelling us.
- That active, Spirit-dependent life is exactly what Paul describes in **Galatians 5**. In it, he contrasts the old man, our sinful flesh, and the new man who is now controlled by the Spirit.
 - While it is difficult to always comprehend, we don’t **just have** the gifts of the Spirit nor the power from the Spirit, but we have the Spirit Himself.
- **Galatians 5:16 - 25** “But I say, ***walk by the Spirit***, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. [17] For the flesh sets its desire against ***the Spirit***, and ***the Spirit*** against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. [18] But if you are ***led by the Spirit***, you are not under the Law. [19] Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, [21] envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the

¹³ Joel Beeke, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 3, 747-748.

¹⁴ <https://www.gty.org/sermons/70-48/bible-questions-and-answers-part-72>

kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the ***Spirit*** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25] If we ***live by the Spirit***, let us also ***walk by the Spirit***.

- “Here in Galatians 5 Paul used four distinct verbs to designate the Spirit-controlled life of the believer, all of which are roughly equivalent in meaning: to walk in the Spirit (v. 16), to be led by the Spirit (v. 18), to live by the Spirit (v. 25a), and to keep in step with the Spirit (v. 25b). Each of these verbs suggests a relationship of dynamic interaction, direction, and purpose. The present tense of the imperative *peripateite*, “walk,” also indicates a present activity now in progress.”¹⁵
- **How we must now walk: by the Spirit (v. 16)**
 - This command answers the question of our overall class...*how must we now live?* We must now live walking by the Spirit.
 - There is our command here...*walk by the Spirit*.
 - It is not optional in our life. This is why there have been so many different ideas of what it means to walk in the Spirit.
 - All believers know and understand that it is a command. We also know that if God commands us to do something, He is going to give us the means to accomplish it.
 - “Yet behind the individual believer Paul sees two ethical forces that seek to control a person’s thought and activity: the one, the personal Spirit of God; the other, the personified “flesh.” What, in such an ethical dilemma, does the Christian do? The promise of the gospel, as Paul proclaims it, is that life in the Spirit negates life controlled by the flesh.”¹⁶
 - “Walk under the Spirit’s power, following His guidance. The Spirit never leads a man into sin. He never conducts him into self-indulgence and excess. Be obedient to that great principle of the Spirit that goes with the doctrine of grace and salvation by faith, and then you will not be obedient to that lusting of the flesh that is in you by nature.”¹⁷

¹⁵ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 386.

¹⁶ Richard N. Longenecker, *Galatians*, vol. 41, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1990), 245.

¹⁷ Charles Spurgeon, *Galatians*, ed. Elliot Ritzema, Spurgeon Commentary Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013), Ga 5:16.

- The Spirit directs *and* empowers the walk (life direction) of the believer. There are means by which He does this, but if the fundamental point is missed, the means will not have the desired effect in the life of the believer.
- In other words, if you do not know or believe that the Spirit is directing you, you can put all the spiritual effort into your life, but it will not have the desired results.
- **Why we must fight: the battle between the flesh and the Spirit (vv. 17-18)**
 - As we walk by the Spirit, it “requires engaging in combat.”¹⁸
 - While we are in warfare from start to finish, the Spirit has broken the dominion of sin and He provides all we need, all that is necessary for real progress in our holiness.
 - If there is no war, it has been said that there is no Spirit present.
 - Our remaining sinfulness and corruption will continually oppose the Spirit.
 - This is the key to our new life...we have the Spirit of God to battle against our remaining flesh.
 - *The key to overcoming sinful desire is not endless fixation upon sin itself.*
 - It is when we intentionally put our sin to death while at the same time filling our mind and life with Christ, His Word, and faithful obedience.
 - This is what Paul means in **Romans 13:14** “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”
 - If you are not being led by the Spirit and putting on Christ, then you are not engaged in active service to the Lord.
 - This is emphasized by Paul in **verse 18**.
 - “To live under the Law is to live by the flesh, even when one is not actually committing sin, because that is the only avenue available to the legalist.”¹⁹
 - The sad irony of legalism is that our flesh has no power to fulfill the law, and the law has no power to stop the flesh.
 - *What happens then?* The believer is stuck in a hopeless and helpless cycle.

¹⁸ Joel Beeke, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 3, 756.

¹⁹ John MacArthur, *Galatians*, 157.

- “At the same time, however, Paul is pursuing a theme that surfaces repeatedly in this part of the letter: the utter effectiveness of the Spirit to provide the power and ethical guidance that the agitators are claiming only the law can supply.”²⁰
 - His point is people will say that you need more than the Spirit, you need to follow the law. Paul says...not so.
- “Nothing mortifies pride, malignity, and impure desire, these lusts of the flesh, like walking in the Spirit”.²¹
- **What is our life producing: look at the deeds of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 19-23)**
 - This is the biggest outward sign for us to look at. What is coming out of us...what are we producing in our lives for others to see?
 - Notice how Paul says *the deeds of the flesh are evident*.
 - That word *evident* means to be readily known, clear, visible, or plainly to be seen. In other words, it’s not hard to tell when someone is being ruled by their sinfulness.
 - Paul’s point in this section of Galatians is to visibly separate those who are walking with the Lord in salvation and those who are walking according to their own sinful desires.
 - That’s the point in **verse 21**, if your life is characterized by the visible and clear works of the flesh, you will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - No matter how much you try and talk your way around it, if the works of the flesh are what is being shown or what is plainly seen; then you are on the wrong path.
 - This is supported by what Paul writes in **verse 24**, there is a great contrast. If you belong to Christ, you have crucified those sinful habits and are not known for them any longer.
 - Contrasted to the deeds of our flesh is the fruit from the Spirit.
 - As should be noted, the deeds are plural and the fruit is singular.
 - The deeds are our own working; the fruit is produced by the Spirit.
 - This list starts with love as it is the foundational fruit from which all the other fruits will naturally flow from.

²⁰ Douglas J. Moo, *Galatians*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013), 357.

²¹ John Brown, *An Exposition of the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians* (Edinburgh; London; New York: William Oliphant and Sons; Hamilton, Adams and Company; Carter and Brothers, 1853), 293.

- Jesus said in **John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. [35] By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- “Christlike love that shows itself in good works is a primary mark of grace for our assurance. It is also an evidence to who the world.”²²
- The fruit of the Spirit is found in the character of Jesus Christ Himself. He is the ultimate example of each of the 9-character traits.
- Sinclair Ferguson says, “And I rather think that he’s suggesting that all of these qualities belong together. They’re meant to grow on the same tree, as it were. You can’t really develop one of them fully without having all of them.”²³
- In other words, you can’t say *I’m working on patience, but kindness is going to have to wait until later.*
 - Even if that were the case, *you can’t work on having more fruit of the Spirit, that would then be a deed of the flesh!*
- This is why it is paramount that we look to Christ. “It’s this ninefold fruit of the Spirit, which the Spirit produces in us as we grow in our love for the Lord Jesus, as our hearts and minds and our wills submit to Scripture, as our affections are suffused with the teaching of Scripture and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Then there is a kind of spiritual natural way in which we grow to be more like Him.”²⁴
- This doesn’t mean that believers no longer struggle with sin, that’s where our next point makes its glorious entrance.
- **Why our victory is secure: who we are in Christ vv. 24-25.**
 - This does not mean that we are going to win every battle against sin and never give in to temptation again. It does mean that you and I have fundamentally changed on the inside.
 - We belong to Christ (v. 24), we have crucified our flesh (v. 24), we live in the Spirit (v. 25), we are now able to walk by the Spirit (v. 25). These are concrete truths now.
 - Notice a fundamental difference...earlier in the letter, he writes in **Galatians 2:20** “*I have been crucified with Christ*; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life

²² Joel Beeke, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 3, 849.

²³ <https://learn.ligonier.org/podcasts/things-unseen-with-sinclair-ferguson/the-fruit-of-the-spirit-things-unseen>

²⁴ Ibid.

which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

- Now in **verse 24** “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus *have crucified the flesh* with its passions and desires.”
- Which one is it? Has have we been crucified with Christ (a passive verb) or do we crucify our own flesh (an active verb)?
- **Notice how Paul masterfully puts this all together**...we can’t crucify our flesh if we are not in Christ Jesus. We can’t be in Christ if we have not died with Him.
- Therefore, as he says in **verse 24**, those who belong to Christ Jesus...in other words, those who have been crucified with Christ now have the responsibility and the power to daily crucify or kill or mortify their own sinfulness and sinful desires.
 - Or in other words, to keep in step with the Spirit (v.25).
- This is not done in our own strength, but through the power of the Spirit of God who is living in us.
- Since our victory has already been secured, Paul uses a different word for *walk*.
- Though in our Bibles it is translated the same, in **verse 16** it is *περιπατέω* and here in **verse 25** it is *στοιχέω*.
 - As I said, both words are walk but they are two different ways of walking.
 - In **verse 16** it is about walking around or to go about. It is about our normal daily living of life.
 - In **verse 25** to walk means to walk in ranks, it is a military term. In our context here it means to *keep in step with the Spirit*.
 - “One does this by fleeing sins the Spirit condemns in the Word, such as pride and envy (v. 26), and strenuously pursuing the righteousness the Spirit commands in the Word, such as meekness (6:1).”²⁵
- As Galatians 5 makes clear, we will not be able to live a Christ centered life without the power of the Spirit living in us and without following the Spirit as He leads us.

²⁵ Joel Beeke, *Reformed Systematic Theology*, vol. 3, 757.