



Life in the Spirit!

Experiencing the Fullness of Christ

#8 The Warfare of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-24)

What is Your Next Port?

The map features four islands, each with a number and a title:

- 3** Faith & Filling (Yellow island with a flame icon)
- 4** Questions & Theology (Purple island with a head and question mark icon)
- 1** Life & Belief (Green island with a dove icon)
- 2** Strength & Dedication (Red island with a person icon)

A central illustration of a three-masted sailing ship is positioned between the islands. A compass rose is located in the bottom right corner of the map area.

Section 2: Christian Growth



“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Rom 8:14)



Introduction: Warfare of the Spirit

The warfare of the Holy Spirit is real and goes on in the heart of every believer. The indwelling Holy Spirit battles against the sinful desires of our flesh in order to aid us in turning away from sin and in walking rightly in the commandments of God. In so doing, we are able to enjoy freedom from sin, new life, His presence and fellowship, and the fruit of His Spirit.

Warfare of the Spirit

“16 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.” (Gal 5:16-17 NASB)

- Desires of the flesh vs. Holy Spirit
- Examples: Temptations with Lust, Anxiety, Laziness, Pride
- Spirit’s warfare leads us to obey God’s good commandments

“26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27 NASB)

- The Holy Spirit was promised to transform our hearts so that we would obey the Lord, and this is for our good as well!

Live by the Spirit

“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.” (Gal 5:24-25 NASB)

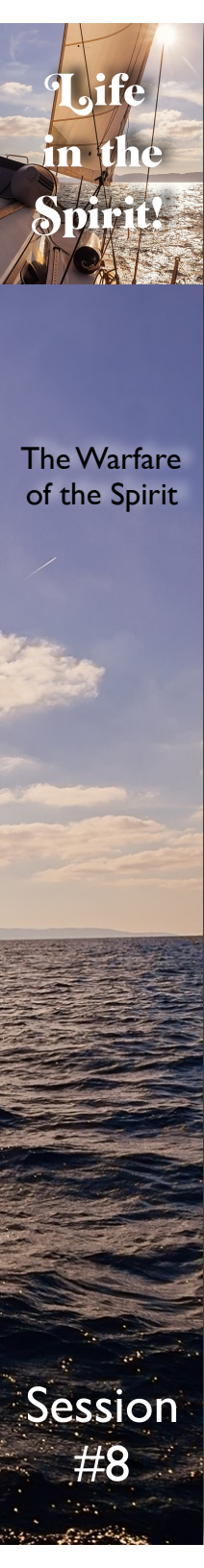
- “Live” is suggests that all believers are definitively living by the Spirit
- Believers: “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”
- Believers live by the Spirit and thus all experience the Spirit’s leading, sanctification, warfare, teaching, filling

Walk by the Spirit

“16 If you walk by the Spirit, you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Gal 5:16 NASB)

“25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” (Gal 5:25 NASB)

- Living by the Spirit is the basis for walking by the Spirit
- “Walk by the Spirit” is a conscious decision to reject sinful desires and obey God that we *should* make
- But we do not always decide correctly
- Walking by the Spirit has external and internal parts



Walk by the Spirit- External and Internal

- Externally: To turn away from sin (the desire of the flesh) and obey God's commandments (do we obey or not?)
- Examples: Do not commit adultery but be pure, do not hold a grudge but forgive, do not be lazy but work hard
- Internally: By transformative power of the Spirit, address root causes of disobedience
- Examples: Pride, bitterness, laziness
- Result: More consistent walk, more consistent joy, deeper companionship with God
- Both components essential!



Walk by the Spirit- Misconceptions

- 1. Walking by the Spirit is not the elimination of sinful desire but the rejection of sinful desire
- 2. Walking by the Spirit is all about our effort and willpower to achieve external obedience
- Examples. Confucianism, other legalistic schools of thought
- Misses the foundational life in the Spirit that enables us to grow into a more consistent walk by the Spirit's transformation
- Scripture teaches that believers are able to find power in the Spirit that helps us grow in obedience



Summary

- No middle road: Either with sinful desires or with the Spirit
- Embrace life in the Spirit and walk by the Spirit!
- See that God's commandments are good, and invite the transforming power of the Holy Spirit into your heart
- Fight *with* the Spirit by choosing to reject sinful desire
- Enjoy fellowship with our Lord, new life, freedom from sin, and the fruit of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-23)

“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 shall not inherit the 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”

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The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-23)

- **Love / Hate**
- **Joy / Sorrow**
- **Peace / War**
- **Patience / Impatient**
- **Kindness / Malice**
- **Goodness / Wickedness**
- **Faithfulness / Disloyalty**
- **Gentleness / Cruelty**
- **Self-Control / Impulsiveness**

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit from the inception of our new lives is set on working so close to our lives that our lives in their deepest places are shaped and formed to be more like Christ. The more the Holy Spirit affects us, the more this holy fruit characterizes our lives. This is the reason God's people can look forward to living in harmony.



Discussion Questions

- **Describe living by the Spirit. Do you feel that life in the Spirit is your reality? Please explain.**
- **Describe walking by the Spirit. Is the Spirit of God intimately involved in your spiritual walk? Please explain.**
- **Share one aspect of the “Fruit of the Spirit” that you feel God is calling you to work on in the coming year.**