

The Christian Walk *Walking in the Spirit*

The Christian Walk

The Scriptures highlight the six elements that should characterize our Christian walk:

- Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)
- Walk in Love
- Walk in the Light
- Walk in Wisdom
- Walk in Unity
- Walk in Truth

Colossians 2:6-7 – *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.* (NASB)

Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16, 24-25: *I say then, “Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (carnal nature). And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”* (NKJV)

Crucifying the flesh

As believers, we have crucified the flesh (sin nature). Therefore the urges and influences of the flesh should have **no** *irresistible, uncontrollable* power over us. All believers have the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, which gives them (if they so choose), the power to live lives pleasing to God. When something is crucified, it is dead. Why would we keep digging it back up, over and over again?

- The “flesh” and the Spirit fight continually against each other, and the evidence of who’s winning is noticeable, visible and recognizable. *By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.* Matthew 7:16 (NIV)
- The Fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21): *“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* (NLT)

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- The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23):

<i>Love</i>	<i>Goodness</i>
<i>Joy</i>	<i>Faithfulness</i>
<i>Peace</i>	<i>Gentleness</i>
<i>Patience</i>	<i>Self-control</i>
<i>Kindness</i>	

The Fruit of the Spirit

What is **fruit**? – *The seed-associated product of certain plants that is sweet and edible in its raw state.* What is the **“fruit” of the Spirit**? – *The visible attributes, characteristics and attitudes of a true Christian life.* You can tell the kind of tree or plant [or person] by its fruit.

Love (*Gr. agape*) – a love of choice, not of emotion or feelings or passion. It is a decision, out of respect, devotion and affection, to be committed to the well-being of others without any conditions or circumstances. *I John 4:7-12; John 15:12*

Joy – different from happiness, it is not based on circumstances. It is a sense of positive well-being experienced by one who knows that all is well between himself/herself and the Lord. *John 15:11, 17:13*

Peace – an inner calm, state of assurance, lack of fear, sense of contentment resulting from the saving relationship with Christ. *Philippians 4:6-7*

Patience (long-suffering) – two-fold attribute 1) slow to avenge wrongs, restraint from speaking or acting hastily or harshly in the face of disagreement, opposition or persecution 2) bearing up with pain or problems, ability to hold-up under difficult circumstances. *James 1:2-4; Proverbs 14:29, 15:18; I Thessalonians 5:14*

Kindness – tender concern and friendly regard for others, like the Lord treats all believers. *Titus 3:1-5; Ephesians 2:4-7, Proverbs 11:16-17*

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Goodness – moral and spiritual excellence, selfless desire to be open-hearted and generous above what they deserve. *Galatians 6:9-10*

Faithfulness – loyalty and trustworthiness, a firm devotion to God, loyalty to friends and family, and dependability in carrying out responsibilities. The Lord is the ultimate example of faithfulness, dependability and trust. *Proverbs 3:3, Matthew 23:23, Revelation 19:11*

Gentleness – humility and meekness, non-threatening demeanor that derives from a position of strength and confidence, yet is calming to another. It is not weakness or passivity. *Matthew 11:28-30, Proverbs 15:1, I Peter 3:15*

Self-control – the ability to restrain one's emotions, actions and desires and to live in harmony with the will of God. *Titus 2:11-12, I Peter 4:7, Proverbs 25:28, James 1:13-15, I Corinthians 10:12-13*

Conclusion

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

*Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to **keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.**¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. I Peter 2:11-12 (NLT)*