

**Christian Fellowship**  
**Christian Growth**  
**Week 3 – Walking by the Spirit**

**Review of Week 2: Indicative/Imperative**

**Relationship 1:** Imperatives are based on indicatives. What God commands us to do (*imperative*) is based upon what he has done, is doing, or will do (*indicative*).

Relationship 2: **Healthy experience flows from active faith. In many cases, our experience of God's blessing follows our willingness to act on the imperatives by faith.**

Can you identify both relationships in this passage?

**(2 Peter 1:3-11)** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

**Introduction**

**The Filling of the Holy Spirit**

**(Eph. 5:18)** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Definition: The term “filled” (Greek: pleroo) means to be “characterized by.” To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be characterized by the Holy Spirit.

1. Whereas Christians receive the baptism by the Spirit only once (1 Cor 12:13), it is possible for us to receive repeated "in-fillings." This was the case with the early church, and Luke is careful to note that this was the key to their vitality and effectiveness in evangelism (see Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8,31; 6:3,5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9,52).
2. The "filling of the Spirit" is connected with our free will. An individual Christian can choose to be or not to be filled.

Therefore, it is helpful to consider the filling of the Holy Spirit as the result of a Christian's openness to the Spirit's influence. Note the qualities of being filled described in Eph. 5:19,20 and Col. 3:16.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. We can resist being filled.

"Grieving the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 4:30) and "quenching the Spirit" (1 Thes. 5:19) apparently refer to two different ways in which Christians resist the filling of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

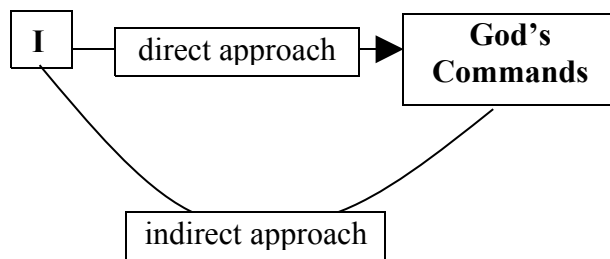
Grieving the Spirit:

**(Eph. 4:29-31)** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Quenching the Spirit:

**(1 Thes. 5:19-21)** Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good and abstain from every form of evil.

### Walking by the Spirit



Romans 7:6 describes two ways we can serve God and pursue our sanctification:

"In the oldness of the letter" (7:7-25).

This refers to trying to keep God's commands \_\_\_\_\_.

"In the newness of the Spirit"

This means that we can choose to follow God \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> "Be filled with" is present (continuous) tense, imperative mood, and passive voice.

Romans 8:2-14 and Galatians 5:16-25.

Walking by the Spirit involves three elements:

1. Setting your mind on the things of the Spirit
2. Keeping in step with the Spirit (responding to the leading of the Spirit).
3. Sowing to the Spirit (regular participation in the means of growth).

### 1. Set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

**(Rom. 8:5-7)** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on *the things of the flesh*, but those who are according to the Spirit, *the things of the Spirit*. (6) For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, (7) because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so . . .

What are the “things of the Spirit” that we should be setting our minds on?

**(1 Cor. 2:12-14)** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know *the things freely given to us by God*, (13) which *things we also speak*, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (14) But a natural man does not accept *the things of the Spirit of God*, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

**(Col. 3:1-3)** If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. (3) you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Definition of setting your mind on the things of the Spirit: Choosing to look at every major area of life from the perspective of God’s grace.

What is a “mind set on the flesh”?

**(Eph. 4:17-25)** This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in

Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be *renewed in the spirit of your mind*, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. 25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

## Key mind-set areas

### A. Your relationship with God

Mind set on the flesh: We naturally assume that God's acceptance and approval is contingent on \_\_\_\_\_.

Mind set on the Spirit:

**(Rom. 8:1)** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**(Rom. 8:15-17)** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* in order that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

**(Rom 8:38,39)** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### B. Your difficult circumstances

Mind set on the flesh: We will tend to interpret bad circumstances as \_\_\_\_\_.

Mind set on the Spirit: We will still feel the impact of negative circumstances, and we will often try to improve them when possible. But more fundamentally, we will set our mind on two crucial biblical truths:

1. These negative circumstances are \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Rom. 8:18)** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

2. God sovereignly works through these negative circumstances for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

a.

**(Rom. 8:28)** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

b.

A sign that we are maturing is that our prayers will change:

C. Your close relationships

Mind set on the flesh: We will tend to believe that we will be happy when \_\_\_\_\_.

Mind set on the Spirit: As we draw our lives from God and his love for us, we discover a reliable and inexhaustible source of security, meaning, and identity.

**(Gal. 5:26-6:4)** Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. (6:1) Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. (2) Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ. (3) For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (4) But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.

We need to have realistic expectations in this area of setting our mind on the things of the Spirit.

**2. Keep in step with the Spirit**

Gal. 5:18 and Rom. 8:14 speak of "being led by the Spirit" as part of walking according to the Spirit.

Paul says in Gal. 5:25 "If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with [NASB - "walk by"] the Spirit."

The phrase "keep in step with" means to proceed under another's direction. It was sometimes used to describe soldiers who marched in response to the directions of their commanding officer.<sup>2</sup>

Definition:

Understanding the leading/guiding of the Holy Spirit is messy because it is personal and subjective. Because of this, Christians tend to polarize into two extreme camps. **Avoid these two dangerous extremes:**

Being led by the Spirit is only a supernatural event.

Being led by the Spirit has no supernatural component at all.

Recognizing the Spirit's guidance

God's Spirit will never guide us in a direction that \_\_\_\_\_.

He will guide you consistently with two biblical priorities for your life:

- Character transformation

(Gal. 5:26)

Maturing Christians become increasingly responsive to God's moral correction. (Heb. 3:7,8; Eph. 4:30; Ps. 32:8-10)

Warning: Be sure to view this activity of the Spirit from the perspective of God's grace. Heb.12:6,10.

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<sup>2</sup> The verb (stoichew) is different than the general verb "walk" (peripatew) in 5:16.

(Gal. 6:1,2)

Is it wrong for Christians to plan ahead without direct guidance from the Spirit?

Hebrews 10:24; Eph. 5:15

What if I'm not experiencing the leading of the Spirit?

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- Will you \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit's guidance?

**3. Sow to the Spirit**

Galatians 6:7-9

The agricultural metaphor indicates that the results \_\_\_\_\_.

Definition:

**(John Stott)** "(If Paul) speaks in Galatians 5:22 of the harvest of the Spirit, he writes in 6:8 that we are to sow to the Spirit, and then we reap what we sow. Whether we reap the fruit of the Spirit depends on whether we sow to the Spirit. The seeds we sow to the Spirit that produce this harvest are . . . a disciplined use of the means of grace. That is, daily prayer and meditation on the Scriptures, reading Christian books, making Christian friends, and getting engaged in Christian service.

It is by a disciplined use of these means of grace that we grow in grace, and the Holy Spirit within us is able to produce the beauty of holiness."<sup>3</sup>

**(Acts 2:42\*)** And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

What did they sow?

The Word ("the apostles' teaching")

Fellowship

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<sup>3</sup> John R.W. Stott, "The Unforbidden Fruit", Christianity Today, Aug 17, 1992, p. 36.

**(Gal. 6:10)** So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Prayer

Acts 4,12; 1 Thes. 5:17

Note:

How did they sow?

Sowing to the Spirit means building a \_\_\_\_\_ centered around these means of growth.

Practical tips concerning the means of growth

A. Be sure you approach the means of growth \_\_\_\_\_.

B. You will probably need to \_\_\_\_\_ for some (or all) of the means of growth.

**(1 Tim. 4:7,8)** On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; (8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

C. Remember that you need \_\_\_\_\_ the means of growth.

## Conclusion

## Memory Verses

**Romans 8:4-14\*\*** An extended passage on walking by the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-25\*\*** An extended passage on walking by the Spirit

These are parallel passages which teach how to walk by the Spirit and the results of doing or not doing this

**Acts 2:42\*** Consistent participation in the Word, prayer and fellowship were keys to their spiritual vitality.

## Assignment

Read *Walking in Victory*, chapters 1-5.

Read Ephesians 1: 3-14, underlining the phrases “in Him”, or “through Him”.

Read the following hypothetical situation and answer the questions.

You have been repeatedly showing up early at Home Group to pray and help get the house ready for the meeting. No one has said anything about your efforts although it is inconvenient for you to get there after work. A fairly new person shows up once to help set up for Home Group and your leader publicly praises her for her effort. How do you feel? Appreciated? Valued? Used?

- Briefly describe the wrong way to respond to this situation?
- Name two correct ways to respond as you draw from your position in Christ in this situation?

## Week 3 Exam Review Guide

1. Be able to explain the three different elements involved in walking by the Spirit (Set your mind on the things of the Spirit; Keep in step with the Spirit; Sow to the Spirit).
2. Be able to identify each of the means of growth.