

**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 2
Week 8: Walking by the Spirit**

Introduction

Walking in the Spirit

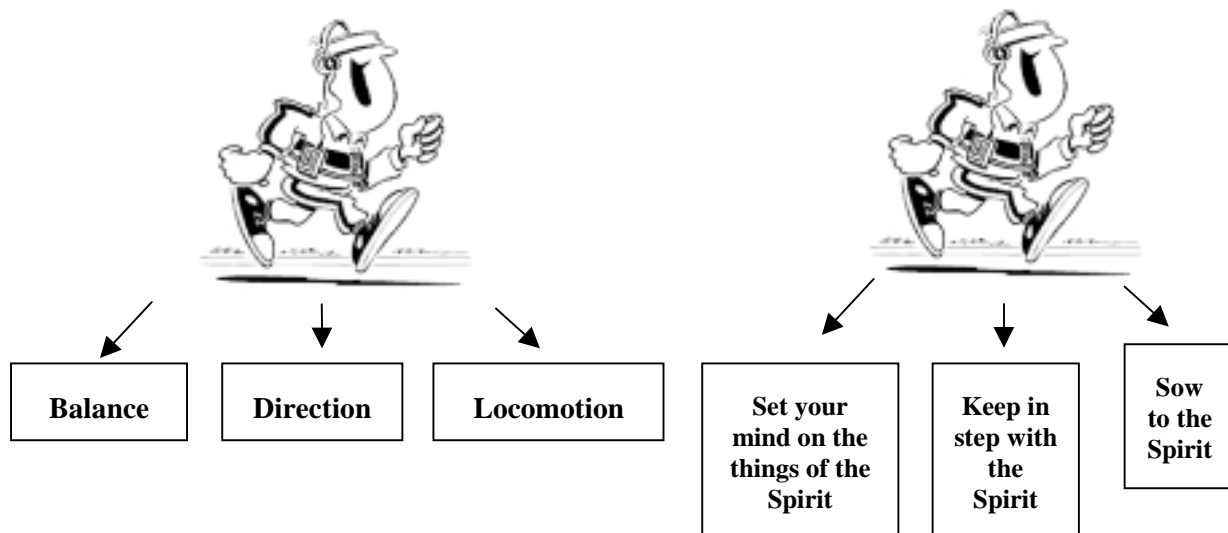
Review Rom. 7:6, which describe two ways we can serve God/pursue sanctification.

"In the oldness of the letter"

"In the newness of the Spirit"

Rom. 8:2-14 and Gal. 5:16-6:9 are parallel passages describing how to walk by the Spirit (see chart on the last page of your notes).

Walking by the Spirit involves three elements:



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 . . .

Definition:

What are the “things of the Spirit?”

(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. 3:1-4) 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) For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

(Eph. 4:20-25) 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 mindset areas:

A. Your relationship with God

(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!" (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, (17) and if children, heirs also, **heirs** of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

(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

(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.

(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.

C. Your Close Relationships

(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.

2. "Keep in step with the Spirit"

(Gal. 5:18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

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

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

Definition:

Avoid Two Dangerous Extremes:

A.

B.

Recognizing the Spirit's guidance

- Moral correction (Gal. 5:26)

Warning:

- Servant direction (Gal. 6:1,2)

If you lack the Spirit's guidance prayerfully consider. . .

- Do you ask for the Spirit's guidance?
- Do you *want to* submit to the Spirit's guidance?

(Ps. 32:8-10) I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. (9) Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. (10) Many are the sorrows of the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

3. "Sow to the Spirit"

(Gal. 6:7-9) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. (9) And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

Key principle:

Definition:

"(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." (John R.W. Stott, "The Unforbidden Fruit", *Christianity Today*, Aug 17, 1992, p. 36)

The means of growth are:

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

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Practical tips concerning the means of growth:

1. Be sure you approach them under grace.
2. You will probably need to cultivate a taste for some (or all) of them.

(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.

3. Remember that you need all of them.

Summary of walking by the Spirit:

The Filling of the Holy Spirit

The term "filled" (Greek: pleroo) means to be "characterized by." In this sense, the New Testament uses the term to describe other characteristics.¹ In the following passages, several truths concerning the filling of the Spirit emerge:

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" (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 (Eph. 5:18).

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

3. In Paul's letters, the term "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18) is synonymous with the terms "walking by/according to the Spirit" or "keeping in step with the Spirit" (see Rom. 8:4-11; Gal. 5:16,18,25). These terms emphasize the Christian's role in being filled with the Spirit.
4. "Grieving the Holy Spirit" and "Quenching the Spirit" apparently refer to two different ways in which Christians resist the filling of the Holy Spirit in their lives:

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(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.

¹See Acts 6:3 where persons are said to be "full of" both the Spirit and wisdom, and Acts 6:5 where Stephen is said to be "full of faith," and 9:36 "full of good deeds"

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(1 Thess. 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.

Memory Verses

Romans 8:4-14** - extended passage on walking according to the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-25** - extended passage on walking according to the Spirit (Be familiar with some of the fruits of the Spirit for the exam.)

Acts 2:42* - consistent participation in the Word, prayer and fellowship were keys to their spiritual vitality

Assignment

Complete the assignment on Acts 2,8,10,19. (see handout)

Exam Review Guide – week 8

- 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).
- Be able to identify each of the means of growth.
- Be familiar with the different "fruits of the Spirit."

Romans 8:4-14** & Galatians 5:16-25** - parallel passages which teach how to walk by the Spirit and the results of doing or not doing this

Acts 2:42* - new Christians were consistently involved in the active means of growth

Romans 8:2-14	Galatians 5:16-25; 6:7-9
<p>2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.</p> <p>3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,</p> <p>4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.</p> <p>5 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.</p> <p>6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,</p> <p>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;</p> <p>8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.</p> <p>11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.</p> <p>12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--</p> <p>13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.</p> <p>14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.</p>	<p>16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.</p> <p>19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,</p> <p>20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissension's, factions,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,</p> <p>23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.</p> <p>24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.</p> <p>25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.</p> <p>26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.</p> <p>3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6:7 . . . Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.</p> <p>8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.</p> <p>9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.</p>