

SET FREE:
*LIVING IN
THE SPIRIT OF*
GRACE

Part 9 – Galatians 5:13-26

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS



American
singer
Johnny Cash
'I Walk the
Line'...



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In Galatians, Paul is saying something deeper:

- Not just “try harder to behave”
- But **walk by the Spirit so you can stay in line with God**



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WALKING IN LINE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MEANS OBEYING THE CENTRAL COMMAND: “WALK IN THE SPIRIT” (5:16)

“walk by the Spirit” (NIV)

“Walk in the Spirit” (NKJV)

“Live freely, animated and motivated by God’s Spirit” (The Message)

“Live by following the Spirit.” (International Children's Bible)

“let the Holy Spirit guide your lives” (NLT)

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The Christian life is not about rules but about *relationship and dependence*.

- “Walk” means **daily, moment-by-moment conduct**
- It implies **progress**, not perfection
- The Holy Spirit is not just present—He must be **actively obeyed because** the Spirit enables us to live a transformed life.

(Romans 8:12-14)

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WALKING IN LINE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MEANS ACKNOWLEDGING THE INNER CONFLICT (5:17–18)

This highlights the **ongoing battle inside every believer:**

- The **flesh** = the old sinful nature (not just the body)
- The **Spirit** = God's indwelling presence
- These are in constant opposition

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Important insights:

- This struggle is **normal**, not a sign of failure
- The Law cannot solve this conflict
- Only the Spirit provides **true freedom**
 - Galatians 5:17 → flesh vs. Spirit
 - This is not abnormal—it's the Christian experience

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**The question isn't whether there's a battle.
The question is: who's leading your steps?**

If you are led by the Spirit, you are no longer under the Law—meaning:

- *You're not controlled by external rules*
- *You're guided by internal transformation*
- *You can change*

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**WALKING IN LINE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
MEANS UNDERSTANDING THE SINFUL
NATURE (5:19–21,24)**

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We could organize Paul's list into categories to show how pervasive sin is in our lives:

A. SENSUAL SINS

- sexual immorality, impurity, lust

B. RELIGIOUS SINS

- Idolatry, sorcery

C. SOCIAL SINS

- Hatred, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, divisions, envy

D. PERSONAL EXCESSES

- Drunkenness, wild living

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Key Observations:

- These are called “**works**” (plural) because the sinful nature produces many different acts
- They are **evidence of an unsubmitted life**
- Persistent practice shows someone is **not living under God’s rule**



THIS IS NOT ABOUT AN
OCCASIONAL FAILURE OR A
MISTAKE, BUT A
PATTERN OF LIFE

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Galatians 5:24 “nailed to the cross”

- A **decisive act** tied to salvation
- Believers have already “crucified” the flesh positionally
- But must also **daily apply** that truth (Saying “no” to sinful desires, refusing to let the sinful nature rule)
- Freedom functions through *love*, not selfishness.

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EXTRA NOTES FOR CONNECT GROUPS

**WALKING IN LINE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
MEANS DISPLAYING THE FRUIT OF THE
SPIRIT (5:22–23)**

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**WALKING IN LINE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
MEANS IT IMPACTS OUR DAILY LIFE
(5:25-26)**

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- The Spirit is not just a feeling—He is a **guide**.
- He keeps us aligned with God's will
- God hasn't just set you free—He's given you a line to walk.

How does that apply in a community?



How does that apply in a community?

- Pride, comparison, and envy disrupt Spirit-led living
- Even spiritual people can fall into:
 - Conceited/Proud
 - Provoking others
 - Jealousy

*True spirituality produces **humility and unity**,
NOT competition.*



THIS PASSAGE IS A CONTRAST BETWEEN TWO LIFESTYLES:

Flesh (sinful nature)	Holy Spirit
Self-driven	God-directed
Produces works	Produces fruit
Leads to conflict and sin	Leads to character and peace

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CONCLUSION:

The secret of the Christian life is not trying harder, but **yielding more fully to the Holy Spirit.**

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