

Fruit of the Spirit, Chapter 5:16-26

Galatians 5:16-18 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. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

In verse 16, Paul tells believers that if they do not want to *carry out the desire of the flesh*, they must *walk by the Spirit*. The word for “walk” is *peripateo*, which refers to the direction and purpose of one’s life.

To *walk by the Spirit*, we must seek His leading; we must follow His instructions and directions. The phrase, “*carry out the desire of the flesh*” not only refers to the immoral issues of life but includes all those areas that consume our lives and direct our lives, which are contrary to God and His holiness.

Verse 17 addresses believers two natures: our flesh (our old nature) and our new spiritual nature; these two are always (and will always be) in conflict with one another. Following our flesh nature results in us not doing what want to do.

The unregenerated man has only one option when it comes to their walk/life: they always will and only can *carry out the desire of the flesh* (walk by the flesh). That is man’s nature and he always obeys his flesh, that is all he has to direct his attitudes and actions. ***John 3:6***

To effectively live the Christian life, believers must **walk by means of or in the Spirit**; we must choose to have our life directed by the Spirit. Unlike the lost, as believers, we actually have an on-going battle within ourselves as to the direction and purpose we will take in our life and the life we will live, it is our choice. ***Genesis 4:6-7***

In verse 18, Paul tells us how was can be freed from the bondage and power of sin and the Law. We are to be *led by the Spirit*; we must surrender our will (what our fleshly nature desires and screams for) to the will of the Father as revealed in His word and through His Holy Spirit.

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As we have already seen earlier, in chapters 2 and 3, it is through the Law that man dies because the power of sin (to kill) is in the Law. Again, the Law was never intended to give life; the Law could only bring death because man is sold into bondage to sin – that is what we do because that is who we are. The Law, metaphorically, keeps a drowning man from coming up for air that we might live; the Law keeps us under our sin – we can find no release, freedom, deliverance, or salvation in the Law. ***1 Corinthians 15:56; Galatians 2:19, 3:23***

Walking by the Spirit is the antithesis of living by law (***Romans 7:14-8:14***). But, yet, when we do walk by or in the Spirit, we will find we gladly fulfill the Law. We must be trained and disciplined to walking in the Spirit and as we do we strengthen our walk with Christ and find our spiritual strength grows that we might please the Father and *fulfill the law of Christ*. ***1 Corinthians 11:31-32; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 12:8-13***