

To walk in the Spirit is key to Christian living. In this lesson we will discover what it means to walk in the spirit.

Galatians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

What is the best way to serve the interests of others above our own?

What happens when we do this?

Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

What warning does Paul give about these things?

What does it mean when it says “practice such things”?

Galatians 5:22-25 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Why does Paul say “against such there is no law”?

What does this mean for us today?

Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Who walks in the spirit?

Matthew 7:18-20 (NKJV)

*18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

What is it that defines the one that will enter the kingdom of heaven?

John 8:31 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 13:35 (NKJV)

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

So how can we know if someone is walking by the spirit, as a true follower of Christ?

Jesus talks more about abiding in him in the following passage.

John 15:1-8 (NKJV)

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Having the fruit of the spirit in your life is proof that you are growing as a Christian. Jesus said if we abide in him we will bear much fruit. But apart from him, we will do not, and we will be cast aside.

What does Jesus compare believers to in this passage?

What roles do Jesus and the Father play in the comparison?

Jesus tells us that if we do not abide in him, we cannot bear fruit. But, if we do abide in him, what will happen?

What happens to those who do not abide in Christ and bear fruit?

So what is our responsibility according to this passage?

Are we to grow the fruit?

So, how can we see fruit in our lives?

Then how do we abide in Christ?

1) Get the WORD IN you.

John 15:7-8 (NKJV)

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

2) Be fully IN LOVE with Jesus.

John 15: 9-10 (NKJV)

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Here, he says that we are to keep his commandments. What are the commandments that he's talking about?

Matthew 22:26-40 (NKJV)

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

3) LOVE each other like Jesus loves us.

John 15:12-14 (NKJV)

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

If you could sum up in one phrase how to walk effectively in the spirit after finishing this lesson, what would you say it would be?