

Walking In The Spirit

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).

When our children were younger, from time to time we would visit a theme park. On one occasion I remember stopping to watch a special puppet show. It is true that the show was for the children, but I enjoyed the entertainment, too. The puppeteers behind the curtain made the puppets walk and talk like real people. With hands inside the lifeless puppets, they acceptably performed for us.

It goes without saying that we are not puppets on the stage of life. However, it is impossible for any of us to be what God wants us to be without His working in and through us. He does this by the agency and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We can walk the way of holiness as the Holy Spirit works in our lives. Through the energy and strength of His Spirit, we can “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb. 12:28).

In Galatians 5, this truth is set forth in several ways. Regarding the theme before us, twice in the chapter the subject of “Walking In The Spirit” is accentuated. In verse sixteen, we are told to “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”. A later statement reads, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (5:25). These references move us to meditate on this important matter.

Walking in the Spirit is a spiritual possibility! There are no commands in the Scriptures that cannot be obeyed by believers. For every command, there is spiritual enablement and grace available to those who would walk in obedience. When we are commanded to “Walk in the Spirit,” it is not an impossible assignment. The Holy Spirit Himself grants us the ability to walk in His life and energy.

Walking in the Spirit involves spiritual power! It is impossible to overcome the opposition of the flesh in our own strength. In the next verse we read that “The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh” (5:17). The battle is of such nature that “ye cannot do the things that ye would.” Only the power of the Holy Ghost can overcome the selfish, determined attitude of the flesh.

Walking in the Spirit incites spiritual productivity! It is interesting that after the Apostle lists the many works of the flesh, works that only the Spirit can overcome, His fruit is mentioned. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (5:22, 23). When we walk in the Spirit’s fullness, we can expect Him to produce these wonderful qualities.