

WALK THIS WAY

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

If you could take a one hour walk with any living person, who would you choose?

EXPLORE

Why?

Jesus called men to "Follow me."
Matthew 4:19

WALKING

The first person reputed to have "walked around the world" is George Matthew Schilling (USA) from August 3, 1887 to 1904, but the first verified achievement in this category was by David Kunst (b.1939) from June 20, 1970 to October 5, 1974. He wore out 21 pairs of shoes in the process.

George Meegan (b. October 2, 1952) of Rainham, Great Britain walked 19,019 miles from Usuaia, in the southern tip of South America, to Prudhoe Bay northern Alaska, taking 2,426 days from January 26, 1977 to September 18, 1983. He thus completed the first traverse of the Americas and western hemisphere on foot.

The Guinness Book of Records (New York: Bantam Books, 1993), p.516.

EXPLORE

What do you think it would have been like to have physically walked with Jesus as His follower?

What would have been the greatest benefit you experienced?

DISCUSS

Why is it so difficult to experience this kind of intimate relationship with Jesus today?

Let's explore what walking with Jesus might be like today.

How can I experience an intimate walk with God today?



1. Live by the Spirit

The word *live* is commonly translated *walk*.

How is life like a walk?

What are some images the phrase *walking by the Spirit* creates?



2. Led by the Spirit

What does it mean to be led by someone?

What insight does this phrase give regarding our relationship/walk with God?



3. Keep in step with the Spirit

Word translated "keep in step with" is a military term giving the idea of "falling in line with."

What characterizes soldiers when they march?

How can we "march in step with the Spirit?"



Galatians 5:16-26

- 16 So I say, **live by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
- 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.
- 18 But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under law.
- 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
- 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions
- 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.
- 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step with the Spirit**.
- 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



CONTEXT

This book was written to the Christians in Galatia to encourage them to stay true to "salvation by faith, not by works." Paul wanted to give the Galatians sound doctrine to combat the legalistic teachers who were saying that it was necessary to keep Jewish law in order to be a true Christian. In chapters 5 and 6, Paul teaches how to experience our freedom in Christ without becoming enslaved to sin.

INSIGHT

SINFUL NATURE: the Greek word translated here by *The New International Version* is *sarx*. It is most commonly translated *flesh* by other versions. The term is extremely important in understanding Paul's teachings regarding man apart from Christ as well as the believer's struggle with sin. As used here, it has been defined as follows:

... Flesh represents the natural, created human aspect. As such it is not sinful—merely weak, limited and temporal. Because of its limitation, it is liable to sin, e.g., to set up the natural and human as God, neglecting the true God, and can even be regarded as mankind's master (Galatians 5:17). It then becomes "sinful flesh," with passions, indulgences, or "zeal, boasting," etc. (F.B. Knutson, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*; p. 314).



THE ALTERNATIVE



What key phrases or ideas does Paul use to describe the alternative to walking by the Spirit?



SUMMARY

Paul's word pictures of life in the Spirit in Galatians 5:16-26 illustrate the essential concepts of **moment-by-moment dependence, yieldedness, and obedience**.

What is the product of walking by the Spirit?

	FRUIT	BENEFIT
	Love _____	
	Joy _____	
	Peace _____	
	Patience _____	
	Kindness _____	
	Goodness _____	
	Faithfulness _____	
	Gentleness _____	
	Self-control _____	

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“I need to act more loving.”
“I need to be more patient.”
“I need to exercise more self-control.”
“I’m going to become a more faithful person.”
“l...l...l...l...l...”

“I believe there is a reason Paul listed these virtues and moved on. They aren’t given to us as goals to pursue. Why? Because you and I cannot produce fruit ... That’s not our responsibility. The Holy Spirit is the producer. We are merely the bearers. The fruit of the Spirit was never intended to be a demonstration of dedication and resolve. It is the evidence of our dependency on and sensitivity to the promptings of the Spirit.”

Charles Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), p.101.

The key is not seeking the fruit but . . .

Walking by the Spirit



IDENTIFY

What is the main challenge you are currently facing?



RELATE

What would it look like for you to live by the Spirit in the face of this challenge?



RESULT

What fruit would you expect to experience more of as you depend upon the Spirit?

For further study:

How You Can Walk in the Spirit—
Bill Bright (New Life Publications)

Romans 8:1-17



The secret to victorious living lies not in keeping a long litany of rules and regulations, but rather in walking hand in hand with the Holy Spirit of God. As you come to know and love God, your obedience to Him will be motivated by liberty rather than by legalism. You will genuinely desire to live as He wants you to. He will fill you with the attributes of Christlikeness—rich pleasures indeed.

—Bill Bright, *The Secret* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1989), p.99.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society.
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