



## Life in the Spirit The Spirit Walk

### Living the Character of Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. *2Cor 5:17; Gal 5:16*

**Introduction:** Walking in the Spirit is walking in the fruit of the Spirit which is the character of Christ growing in us.

#### A. Walking in Works or Fruit?

1. **Fruit:** The fruit of the Spirit is the result of the indwelling of the Spirit—salvation. ‘Walking’ is a metaphor for ‘progress’ or growth. This is a ‘supernatural’ growth of God’s character in us. *John 15:1-8*
2. **Works:** The works of the flesh are human focused and reveal the dark side of humanity—our fallen nature. Rather than fruit—these characteristics are called work. NOTE: The ‘good works’ of the believer are a result of the operation of the fruit of the Spirit.

#### B. The Character of the Fruit of the Spirit

*The character of the fruit of the Spirit is the Character of Christ!*

1. **Love:** [*1Joh 4:7-7; Joh13:35; Luk6:27-28*] The chief characteristic of the Christian life and Christ. Such love can only be the product of the love of God being poured into a person’s heart. *Rom 5:5*
2. **Joy:** Joy is ‘circumstance neutral’ and **LOVE’S reaction to God’s mercies**, blessing and benefits. Nehemiah said, “...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
3. **Peace:** [*Joh 14:27; Phil. 4:7; Rom. 5:1*] Peace **with** God is the result of being justified by faith. The fruit of the Spirit, **peace**, is an inner characteristic of peace. It is freedom from a quarrelsome and contentious spirit. It is LOVE that seeks to live peaceably with all men.
4. **Longsuffering [patience]:** Longsuffering is LOVE untiring. It is LOVE persevering through the storm and flood.
5. **Kindness:** Kindness is LOVE dealing with others in their faults. “Love suffers long and is kind.” *1Cor 13:4*
6. **Goodness:** Goodness is LOVE heaping benefits on others. Goodness is LOVE in action. The Good Samaritan is the benchmark of this kind of ‘goodness.’ *Luke 10:25-37*
7. **Faithfulness:** Faithfulness is keeping our word with others. It is being faithful in our promises, duties and obligations. **LOVE** keeps it’s promises. Faithfulness is the ultimate manifestation of God’s LOVE.
8. **Gentleness [meekness]:** Meekness is slowness to anger and to take offense. The meek do not strive, quarrel or contend. However, meekness is NOT weakness. Jesus was meek because He had the infinite resources of God at His command. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.” *Mat 5:5.* Meekness is the strength of LOVE to depend on God for the outcome.
9. **Self-control:** Self-control is true self LOVE. The work of the flesh seeks to control others. Self-control is LOVE ruling over every aspect and phase of my life. Self-control characterizes Christlike maturity.

*When we walk with God....*

**We shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever we do shall prosper.** *Psalms 1 (Free translation)*

Pastor Mike Bayer — The Village Church of Laguna Woods VillageAlive.com — “Life in the Spirit” [Message 6]

Scripture (NKJV)

**Gal 5:19-21** 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.

**Gal 5:22-26** But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, 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. **26** Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**Rom 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

**Gal 5:16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.