

Walking In The Spirit

Pastor Wayne Holbrook

The key to walking in the Spirit is cultivating a sensitivity to be able to hear the voice of God. We must be able to discern His voice from the many “voices” that we hear in this present world. Jesus said in John 10:27, “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*” Further, He used the following phrase on numerous occasions... “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*” (Matthew 11:15)

The famous and very familiar quote from the Verizon commercial speaks of a practical and powerful truth when it comes to following Jesus and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit! Can you hear me? Can you hear me now?

Simply put, the keys to hearing God’s voice and following God’s Way can be discovered in these three biblical principles...H.B.O. That’s not the movie channel, it is the mandate that we follow each and every day in order to “Walk In The Spirit”. It stands for...**H**ear...**B**elieve...and **O**bey! If we don’t listen, we won’t know where He is going and if we don’t respond, we won’t be very close to where He is.

Walking in the Spirit requires that we get close enough and quiet enough to hear the Holy Spirit's voice.

James 4:8 – “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...*”

Luke 5:16 – “*So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*”

Galatians 5:16-18 – “*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*”

When we truly follow Christ, we have the mind of Christ, our hands do the work of Christ, and our feet go to places fitting those who follow Christ. Walking in the Spirit is not something that just automatically happens when you receive Jesus. It is a discipline and something we all need to work at.

The more we recognize and obey the Holy Spirit, the easier it becomes to defeat the flesh and walk in the power of the Spirit. Once we can differentiate between the two (flesh vs. Spirit) we move towards a point where walking in the Spirit doesn’t have to be a decision as much as it becomes our mindset and then our lifestyle. The end result...our lives and other people’s lives are radically touched and God is glorified.

*Walking in the Spirit will result in a display of God’s love,
His anointing, and a demonstration of His power.*

Galatians 6:8,9 – “*For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*”

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*”

Matthew 11:12 – “*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.* (Conflict in the kingdom...Flesh vs. Spirit)

Walking in the Spirit allows the fullness of the Spirit to manifest.

Colossians 3:12-17 – “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

How To Walk In The Spirit: (All with a daily application)

The below outline and success in our Christian life comes by way of applying daily discipline, duty and devotion to the Word of God and to the Spirit of God!

1. Understand Your Election – Vs. 12 (Our daily identity in Christ)

“elect of God” – chosen, hand picked for special service and privileges. 1Peter 2:9 – “Chosen”

Before we are able to successfully walk in the Spirit we must understand our election by the Spirit.

2. Demonstrate the Fruit of The Spirit – Vs. 12,13 (Our daily display of Christ)

“tender mercies” – compassion in action. Jesus looked out at the multitudes...moved w/compassion

“kindness” – gentleness in dealing with people.

“humility” – demonstrating an unselfish concern for the well-being of others. Absence of pride.

“meekness” – mild tempered and gentle.

“longsuffering” – speaks of patience and perseverance. The ability to endure.

“bearing with one another” – serving and encouraging, standing in faith with others, not quitting.

Walking in the Spirit calls us to seek for opportunities to minister and flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We must avoid the traps and temptations of the devil and the flesh. Know your weak points and become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).

3. Walk in Forgiveness – Vs. 13 (Our daily challenge)

Walking in forgiveness allows the freedom of the Spirit to flow through you.

Unforgiveness is a work of the flesh. It is sin, a work of darkness. ROY HICKS SR.... “Sin will take me farther than I want to go, keep me longer than I want to stay and cost me for than I ever want to pay.” To a weak Christian (carnal, fleshly minded) sin finds...sin blinds...and sin grinds! What sin has stolen, grace has restored. Romans 3:23,24 – “for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...”

4. Put on Love – Vs. 14 (Our daily call)

Eph. 5:1,2 – “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

1 John 4:7-11 – *“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”*

Walking in love always silences the voice of fear.

5. Embrace God’s Peace – Vs. 15 (Our daily provision)

Isaiah 26:3, *“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”*

Philippians 4:6-9 – *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

Romans 16:20 – *“And the God of peace will crush satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”*

6. Spend time in Praise & Worship – Vs. 15, 16 (Our daily purpose)

Psalms 100:1-3 – *“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”*

Psalms 22:3 – *“But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.”*

John 4:23,24 – *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

Isaiah 61:3 – *“To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”*

7. Spend time in the Word – Vs. 16 (Our daily bread)

Hebrews 4:12 – *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Psalm 119:11-16 – *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”*

Psalm 119:105 – *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

Joshua 1:8,9 – *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

8. Serve God with Purpose – Vs. 17 (Our daily assignment)

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 – *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*

To walk in the Spirit we must pursue the gifts of the Spirit!

1 Corinthians 12:31 – *“But earnestly desire the best gifts...”*

1 Corinthians 14:1-4 – *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”*

Acts 11:23-24 – *“When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”*

Romans 8:28 – *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Our purpose in life is to share with others about the giver of life.

Ephesians 1:11-12 – *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”*

Ephesians 3:8-13 – *“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”*