



Galatians: Keep in Step

July 12

INTRODUCTION: In ch. 5 Paul has moved into the ethical dimension of the Gospel (“therefore” 5:1). If the OC is no longer our definitive guide to God’s will for living, how then shall we live under the NC? The answer is not lawlessness but in fulfilment of the Law in the power of His Spirit.

RECAP: [Galatians Video \(Bible Project\)](#)

KEY POINT: walk, led, live by/keep in step with the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT: Christ sets us free from the penalty of sin; the Spirit sets us free from the power of sin.

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Gal 5:13–15)

- In Christ we are set free from...? Define Christian freedom.
- How are we free from sin not to sin?
- How are we free from self-love to love others?
- How are we free from condemnation to fulfil the law?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Music Night and Baptism)

- What is baptism?
- What isn’t baptism?
- How is baptism a sermon unto itself? (Ro 6)
- How can be encouraging those in our midst to “repent and be baptized”?

READ: Gal 5:16–18, 24–25

QUESTIONS:

Command/Promise of Christian Freedom

1. *Christian freedom is not lawlessness, but is expressed in self-control, loving our neighbour and fulfilling the Law. How are these things possible? Enter the Spirit. He alone can keep us free.*
2. What couldn’t God’s people do under the OC? (Josh 24:19)
3. What did the prophets promise under the NC? (Ezk 36:26–27)

4. *God’s presence was in the Garden, sporadic amongst the patriarchs, dwelled with Israel and now lives in us today.*
5. **How many times is the Holy Spirit mentioned?**
6. **The central theme of Galatians is _____ (Gal 2:16).**
7. *We are justified by faith so it follows we must also live by faith.*
8. **V. 16a- What is the command? (walk= right living) How might this be likened to living by faith? What does it mean to rely on the Spirit?**
9. *Christianary:*
 - a. *gratify means bring to an end, fulfill, complete*
 - b. *flesh means our fallen or sinful nature*
10. **V. 16b- What is the promise if we walk by the Spirit?**
11. *5:1 and 5:15- Not only do the works of the Law or flesh not save they cannot sanctify, or help us live freely. What would walking according to the flesh look like? How is this not freedom?*

The Struggle

12. **V. 17- Why would it be false, from this passage and experience, to say the Christian life is not one of fierce internal conflict (as some wrongly suggest)?**
13. **How are the desires of our fallen nature and those of our spiritual nature at war? Why do Christians know what is right but sometimes struggle to do right? (Ro 7:15). How do we feel when we sin or when we do right?**
14. *However, it would be wrong to say the Christian cannot know victory, or an ongoing subduing of the flesh.*

Victory/How we live by the Spirit

15. *V. 18a- led by the Spirit— return.*
16. *“not under the law” does not mean there is no morality, but the Spirit is proof we live under the NC because the Spirit does lead us and so free to overcome the flesh!*
17. *In vv. 19–21 Paul surveys what the works of the flesh look like and then contrasts that with the fruit of the Spirit, vv. 22–23. We’ll get to these this Lord’s Day.*
18. *V. 24- Christians must crucify the flesh. What does this mean? In Lk 9:23 we must take up our cross (practice self-denial) daily (each day), not just walking to the place of crucifixion (intending to kill our desire) but executing them. At our conversion we nailed our sin and desires to the Cross. We must now leave them there to die and not go back to caress and flirt with the nails. **How is the***

measure of our repentance key to living a life free from sin? *But there is more...we must be led and live by the Spirit.*

Command, v.16	<i>Walk by the Spirit</i>	Right (ethical) living
Promise, v. 18	<i>Led by the Spirit</i>	To be led refers to the active personal ongoing involvement of the Spirit in our life (the same word is used of a shepherd). Sanctification begins with His initiative—praise the Lord we have a helper!
Reality, v. 25	<i>Live by the Spirit</i>	If we are alive we will progressively show we are alive by how we live!
Responsibility, v. 25	<i>Keep in step with the Spirit</i>	V. 25- While the Spirit's role in our regeneration is complete and we offer nothing, in our sanctification, He leads but we must follow. "To walk by the Spirit" means 'to keep in step, or keep in cadence with, to walk in line behind a leader.' It also means living up to a standard or rule that is being followed.
Continuous		

19. *Victory that belongs to, or is in reach of, every Christian for we've all "crucified the flesh" and "live by the Spirit."*
20. **How must we rely on and look to the Spirit?**
21. **How can turning from evil (works of the flesh) and pursuing what is good (fruit of the Spirit) help us? (Ro 8:5–6, Col 3:1–2; Phil 4:8)**
22. **How can 'a diligent use of the means of grace' help produce fruit in our lives?**
23. *Rejoice: We have a helper who as we repent and rely on Him guides and empowers us to live differently!*

NEXT: July 19- Gal 6:1–10, Bear One Another's Burdens