

...In Step

A Biblical Path to Living Life in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

It is extremely important for all believers in Christ to understand what it means to live our lives each day and in every possible way keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. Of course we clearly see that Scripture is not talking about literal steps in the physical sense of it - but rather very *literal spiritual steps* within a *literal spiritual walk* of faith and trust in God through belief and love for Christ Jesus our Redeemer - *Yeshua Hegul el' Shalano*. The literal interpretation and active faith context of *Galatian 5:25* has us keeping ourselves in full surrender - mind-body-spirit, and in complete unity with the virtues, movement, and the evidential and Biblical purposes of God's Spirit being poured out in our lives. We can see the evidence of God's Spirit all over our lives.

Ephesians 4:1-14

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." 9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the

shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

It should go without saying that the biblical principles and precepts regarding followers of Christ *keeping in step* with the Spirit are in direct opposition to our *keeping in step* with the attitude and intent of our flesh or as the Bible describes it - our sinful appetites and the carnality of our earthly desires. The reality is that everyone in this room has a fairly robust understanding of what it is to give in, give up, and subsequently fulfill within ourselves the desires and impulses of our flesh leaving ourselves and the people we love open to a full menu of the consequences, heartache, and separation that comes with it. We know when we are pleasing ourselves and when we are not pleasing to God. What we need to gain a deeper understanding of, is what it means in Scripture to *keep in step* with the Spirit which God has poured out on us.

As a follow up on the Series - A Righteous Revolution (Amos 5 and Joel 2), and our worship gatherings from the last two Sunday's we will open up Scripture and conversation about what it means Biblically to experience and be an active recipient of the outpouring of God's Spirit, and what it means to keep in step with the Spirit as present-day Christ followers and disciples of the Christian faith. We will look specifically at keeping in step with the Spirit as opposed to our flesh and sinful desires with the clear understanding that when we fully set our mind after the things of the Spirit we will not fulfill the things of the flesh.

John 6:63

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life

Galatians 5:16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Romans 8:5-8

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Biblical Steps

Let's first look directly at the Biblical path to keeping in step with the Spirit. Those steps always begin and end with the teacher and the disciple - the leader and the follower - the master and the servant - the Shepherd and his sheep.

Jesus said... It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is **no help at all**. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. John 6:63

When we look to our flesh to satisfy and gratify us in this life we are looking in the wrong direction. Our flesh is incapable of anything sufficient, substantial, or sustainable - leaving us and those we love always missing something - empty and unfulfilled.

Paul said... we have confidence through Christ toward God. Not because we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from

God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life.** 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

It is not that we are incomplete, incompetent or incapable - it is that we are complete, competent, and capable when we keep in step with the Spirit and not with our flesh. Our self-sufficiency is not enough, and our sufficiency as good, right, and righteous people is found in step with the Spirit. The Spirit leads us into sufficiency. He is enough.

Jesus said... I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

The simple truth here is that we have made a choice to follow Jesus. Because we are confident and complete in that choice the idea is that we follow Christ the Word and walk each day in and with the Spirit. While keeping in step with the Spirit we realize each step of each day has a meaningful purpose, a good motive, and Spirit-led opportunities for those "God moments" that will altar the direction and outcome for not only ourselves but also for all those around us.

Paul said... Don't let anyone deceive you with enticing but meaningless words, it only leads to disobedience. Do not partner with them; but instead walk as children of light and recognize what pleases the Lord. Stay away from darkness and all that comes with it - use your time and effort shining light. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Ephesians 5:6-11

This is as straight forward as it gets. We don't seek clarity on something that already been made clear. We do not redefine what has already been defined, or attempt to change what we know is unchangeable. The Spirit of God has called us out of darkness and into His light. We are children of the day and not of the night - light not dark - truth not lies. The callout here is not to see how close we can walk to the dark but rather, how we can walk fully committed into fulness of the light. It is a Biblical and divine reality that is most often understood and yet too often ignored or rejected. The Spirit of God will not lead us down the steps of unrighteousness and into the darkness. Those are steps we take on our own and make by our self. Keeping in step with the

Spirit will lead us into the light of God's glory and those are steps each one of us are being called and drawn to by the power of the Holy Spirit!

...Are we in step?

In Step - One Step at a Time

1 Corinthians 14:10-12

There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, 11 but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church

II Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Galatians 4:6-7

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 6:6-9

Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Ephesians 4:30-32; 5:1-2

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. 5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:30-32

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Ephesians 5:15-21

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 6:16-18

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Philippians 2:1-5

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:12-22

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil

Hebrews 2:1-4

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall

we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Jude 19-21

It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.