

# Walk In The Spirit

Galatians 5:25



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**FOCAL Read Together Galatians 5:25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

What is the chief difference between *Judaism* and *Christianity*?

We see the difference in their very names. Judaism is formed from the word **Judah**, which means **those who praise the Lord**. A shortened form of **Judah** is the word **Jew**. The Jews were God's Old Covenant people. We who are Christians love the Jews – the praisers of God – for out of Israel came the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord. No Christian is an anti-Semite, a person who hates the Jews. As Jesus told the woman at the well of Samaria, **salvation is of the Jews (John 4:22)**. Jesus Christ came from Israel. The Promised Messiah – very God of Very Gods – would come from Judah. He would come to this earth as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

**Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**

The Messiah would come because God promised a New Covenant to His Israel. The Old Covenant was based on human works. The Old Covenant was based on the Law of God, but had no ability to change the hearts of the people of God. The **New Covenant** would replace the **Old Covenant**. The **New Covenant would come to the Jews – the praisers of God – first**. God prophesied

through Jeremiah:

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: {32} Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers** in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; **which my covenant they broke**, although I was a husband unto them, saith the LORD: {33} But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; **After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. {34} And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**

The Old Covenant was based upon **Judah, and the work of Judah's hands**. The New Covenant is based upon **Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit**.

The Old Covenant was based upon **Judah**, upon every person learning and doing the Law. The **New Covenant** that God made with **Israel and Judah** was not written on tablets of stone (as the Ten Commandments were), nor was it contained on animal skins and papyrus (as were the rest of the Law and the Prophets were), but the New Covenant **would be placed**

**in the hearts of the people**. God told Israel, “**I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts**”. God would do this by His Spirit. The Lord prophesied through Ezekiel:

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** A **new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. {27} And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.**

The difference between **Judaism** and **Christianity** is a difference of power, a difference of focus.

**Judaism** placed great emphasis on what man could do through the keeping of the Law. **Christianity** places great emphasis on **what Christ will do**. God promised Israel that “**a new heart also will I give you, and a new Spirit will I put within you**”. In the first Covenant God told Israel what to do, and they were to do it. In the second Covenant *God would give a heart transplant to all who believed on Him*. He would take away the **stony heart**, just as He took away the **stony Law**, and in its place God would **write His Law on the heart of flesh, and put His Spirit within His people**. God promised under the New Covenant (also called the New Testament) that He would “**put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes**”.

God would be the Source and the Sanction of the New Life. **Judaism** relies on the power of the Old Covenant,

but **Christianity** relies on the power of **Christ**. We who are Christians praise God for Israel. We weep, for **Christ came unto His own, but His own would not receive Him (John 1:11)**. But we who know Christ as Savior rejoice, for **“through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles (that's us), for to provoke them to jealousy” (Romans 11:11)**. The Church came about because Israel rejected their Messiah, clinging instead to human works and the Old Covenant. But blessed be the Name of God, those who turn to Christ – from human works to God's works – shall be saved.

**Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

### **1. Do You Live BY The Spirit?**

**FOCAL** Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit ...

Though I love the King James text, this particular portion of the text is not quite properly translated. The King James says **“If we live IN the Spirit”**. The better translation here is **“BY the Spirit”**. **“IF we live BY the Spirit”**. What does this mean?

It is the Spirit that gives life. It is God Who write His Laws on the hearts of His people. It is God Who makes us alive from the dead.

Do you live BY the Spirit? Many today in the local Church live a modified form of Judaism. They live BY the Law. We see an awful lot of this today in the Church.

Everything seems like it involves *self help* and *self improvement*. They say “do this, and you shall live”. Many who profess Christ live according to laws. They live according to the commandments and doctrines of men. They are followers of **Judah** – just as those who follow **Judaism**, but are not followers of **Christ** nor of **Christianity**. The heart of the Christian faith is not found in what I do in my own power. The heart of the Christian faith is what **God has done in us**.

Do you **live BY the Spirit**? Has God done what He promised? Has God fulfilled His prophecy in you?

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. {27} And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

One of the most well respected followers of Judaism came to Jesus by night to discuss His controversial teachings. The Bible tells us that **Nicodemus, a man of the Pharisees, a ruler of the Jews** called Jesus **“Rabbi”** and **“a Teacher come from God” (John 3:2)**, and flattered Jesus saying **“God must be with You because of the great miracles You do”**. How did Jesus respond to Nicodemus? He replied:

**John 3:3 ... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

**“You must be *born again*, Nicodemus. God must give you a new life, and a new heart. If you are not *born again* then you *cannot see the Kingdom of God*.”** The Law cannot give you new eyes. The Law can open your eyes to the need of life. The Law of God can make you realize that you are *spiritually dead*, and that you will always be apart from God *unless God works in you*.

Israel – and those who reject Christ today - placed emphasis on parentage, on the *first birth*, on what tribe you came from and of whose house you were. Those who were of the Tribe of Judah served in the palace, for Kings came from Judah. Those who were of the Tribe of Levi served in the Temple, for priests came from Levi. It was a matter of your lineage, of your blood line. When Nicodemus came to Jesus perhaps he was seeking the lineage of Christ. When Jesus told him **you must be born again** Nicodemus immediately responded with what he knew. He said, **“how does a person be born when he is already old? Does he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?”** (John 3:4). You see the mindset of those who have yet to meet the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. They look for a way in which they can – in their own power – get to God.

Followers of Judaism look for a way in which they can – in their own strength – serve God. **“What can I do in my own power to be born a second time?”**

Dear friends, there is nothing you can do but *call upon the Lord Jesus Christ*. Jesus said:

**John 3:5-7 .... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. {6} That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. {7} Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

**You must be born again. You must be born of the Spirit.** This is why the Scripture says **“IF you LIVE BY THE SPIRIT”**. Have you been made alive by the Spirit of God? If so then ..

**Ephesians 2:1-2 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins {2} Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

There are two states of life: By the flesh, or By the Spirit. One leads to death, and the other leads to life.

There are two states that people can be in. You can live in your flesh apart from the Spirit of God, or you can **call upon the Name of Jesus for the second birth**. You can live in the flesh, or live by the Spirit.

The **works of the flesh** all exude death and lead to death. The Apostle wrote:

**Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity,**

**promiscuity, {20} idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, {21} envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**<sup>1</sup> HCSB

Dear friends, if you can involve yourselves in **sexual immorality, moral impurity, and promiscuity** without guilt and without a care in this world, then you **are in the flesh and not in the Spirit.**

The Christian, indwelt by the Spirit of God, has had his heart transplanted by God. He can no longer do these things without feeling the stirring of the Spirit accusing and compelling to be away from this godless way of life.

If you can involve yourselves in **godless religions such as those embodied by idolatry and sorcery** and do so without conviction, *you may not be born of the Spirit.* If you can engage in negative emotions such as **hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfishness, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, and carousing** and God not speak to your heart to call you away from it, you may not be born again. Those who are **born again** are those in whom **God has given them a new heart and a new Spirit.** They are those whom **God causes them to walk in His statutes.** He speaks to the

<sup>1</sup> Holman Christian Standard Version of the Holy Scripture, here used for clarity.

hearts of those who are His. What does the Scripture say?

**Romans 5:5 ... God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

**God's love has been poured out in our hearts *through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.*** The Holy Spirit of God works in the hearts of God's people. If you are His then you may – and will – sin, but you will not do so and glory in the sinning. The **Spirit quickeneth**, the Holy Spirit is the Source of the believer's life. **I will write my laws in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.** He does this through His Holy Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now he which establisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; {22} Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**

Who gave us **the Spirit as a down payment in our hearts?** God did! Jesus did! What did Jesus say?

**John 14:23-26 ... If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. {24} He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. ...{26} ... the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

When we come to Christ and call upon Him for salvation He sends the Holy Spirit to us. We live by **this Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit **brings all things to our remembrance.** He writes the Law of God in our hearts. He speaks to us. Jesus Christ is the Sender of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts the world of sin. Jesus said:

**John 16:7-11 ... I will send {the Holy Spirit, the Comforter} unto you. {8} And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: {9} Of sin, because they believe not on me; {10} Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; {11} Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged....**

When a person is convicted of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, it is because the Holy Spirit has come to him and spoken to his heart. You can only be **born again by calling upon the Name of Jesus, and believing that God would do as He said.** The Christian – unlike the followers of Judaism – is redeemed not by Law but by the Power of God. We believe what God has said, and believing, we call upon His Name. Our redemption – payment for salvation – is not the blood of animals, but it is the **precious Blood of Christ.** The Scripture says:

**1 Peter 1:18-23 .... ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;**

**{19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: {20} Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, .... {23} Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.**

How is a person **born again?** By calling on the Name of Jesus. How is a person **born again?** **By God doing what He said He would do.** We who are Christians trust God, and not ourselves for salvation.

**My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
When Darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

Because of Christ I have the power of the New Birth. The Spirit works in those who are God's. **On their hearts I WILL write** is His promise.

Are you born again by faith in Christ? Has God done His work in you? If not, *call upon the Name of Jesus* and God will do as He has promised!

## 2. If You Live By the Spirit, You Are Commanded To Walk By The Spirit

**FOCAL Galatians 5:25** If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit.**

As it was with the first part of this text, so it is with the second. The words translated **in the Spirit** should be translated **BY the Spirit**. If you have received life **By the Spirit** then God expects you to walk as Living Creatures. When John the Baptist came proclaiming Jesus he was asked one day why it was that people flocked to Christ but his disciples were going away. John replied:

**John 3:27-31 ... A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. {28} Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. ...{30} He must increase, but I must decrease. {31} He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.**

**He must increase, but I must decrease.** If you are born again by **His Spirit** then let us also **walk by His Spirit**.

Let us live our lives by His direction and by His calling. The ways of the flesh are death. The Bible says:

**Romans 7:5-6** For **when we were in the flesh, the**

**motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. {6} But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of Spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**

**When we were in the flesh**, that is, children of Adam, then **the motions of sins worked in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.**

It is interesting that the world is always looking for a cure for something.

They are always sponsoring *walkathons* or *bikeathons* to support research to cure AIDS or HIV or some disease. There is a cure for many of the diseases that afflict people already. What cure is there? **Walk by the Spirit, and not by the flesh.** Do not chase after sexual sin, and you will not get AIDS, HIV, or other terribly tragic sexually transmitted diseases. **Walk by the Spirit** and watch your stress level – and heart diseases – go down. **Walk by the Spirit.**

**Galatians 5:16** This I say then, **Walk {by} the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

When we **walk by the flesh** we invite death to ourselves. The **works of the flesh** bring death – ALWAYS. What does the Scripture say?

**Romans 8:11-13 ... if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised**

**Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you. {12} So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, {13} for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

Think on those words. **If you live according to the flesh, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.** You will kill yourselves. The flesh brings only death.

If you live **by the sins of sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery** you will take that which is precious – and given by a God Who loves you – and destroy it. **Families are murdered** when father or mother fall into sexual sin. **Marriages are destroyed** by the flame of lust misplaced. **If you live according to the flesh you are going to die.** If you depart from the Living God to follow **idolatry or witchcraft** then you will **murder your Church.** If you let **hatred, discord, envy, rage, selfishness, and other negative and ungodly emotions** consume you then you will find that you **have murdered your friendships.** Dear Ones, if none walk with you and you are lonely, ask yourselves “have I brought this upon myself?”. When you're mean and nasty you walk alone.

**If you live BY the Spirit, then WALK BY the Spirit.** Let the Spirit of God rule in your hearts. Let His slightest whisper guide you. There is life in Christ. There is love in Christ. The Bible says:

**Galatians 5:22-23 .. the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

**Walk by the Spirit.** If you walk by the Spirit you will walk in life. If you walk by the Spirit then **love will be your firstfruit**, and following that will be **joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.**

When Jesus Christ took away our sins He wrote the Law of God on our hearts. He took away our old lives along with the Old Covenant, and empowered us to live for Him.

## **Jesus Christ**

**Hebrews 8:6 ... is the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.**

How then shall we live? We shall live by the Spirit. We seek the fruit of the Spirit, and reject all other fruit as unfitting attire for a Child of the King.

**2 Corinthians 3:5-9 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; {6} Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.**

God has given us life **through His Spirit. Walk by the**

**Spirit.** Seek God's face in prayer. **Pray without ceasing.** Seek God's Will through His Word. **Read the Scripture, and do as the Spirit bids you do. His Word effectually works in you that believe (1 Thessalonians 2:13).**

If you live By the Spirit, walk by the Spirit. We are called into **Christianity not Judaism.** May God touch your hearts with His Word!

