

WALKING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

with Bishop Ronald Powell

Crosswinds International Ministries

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 KJV

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 KJV

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Walking in the Holy Spirit is a central theme of the Christian life, primarily focusing on a shift in "control"—moving from the impulses of the human nature (the flesh) to the guidance of God's presence. In the New Testament, particularly in the writings of the Apostle Paul, this is described as a continuous, daily rhythm rather than a one-time event.

1. The Internal Conflict (Galatians 5:16–25)

This is the foundational text for "walking in the Spirit." Paul explains that there is a constant tension between our natural desires and the Spirit's direction.

The Command: "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

The Result: Walking in the Spirit produces "fruit"—character traits like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The Action: It involves "crucifying" the fleshly impulses and actively choosing to follow the Spirit's lead (Galatians 5:24–25).

2. The Mindset of Life and Peace (Romans 8:1–14)

In Romans, walking in the Spirit is presented as a way of thinking and a legal reality for the believer.

No Condemnation: For those who are "in Christ Jesus" and walk according to the Spirit, the law of the Spirit of life has set them free from the law of sin and death.

The Mindset: "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)

Empowerment: It is the Spirit that provides the power to "put to death the misdeeds of the body" (Romans 8:13).

3. Being "Filled" vs. Walking (Ephesians 5:18)

While "walking" implies a steady progression or journey, Paul also uses the imagery of being "filled."

The Contrast: He compares being drunk with wine (under the influence of a substance) to being filled with the Spirit (under the influence of God's presence).

The Outcome: A Spirit-filled walk results in worship, thankfulness, and healthy relationships (Ephesians 5:19–21).

4. Guidance into Truth (John 14–16)

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a Paraclete (Advocate, Helper, or Comforter).

Teaching: The Spirit reminds believers of Jesus' words and guides them into all truth (John 16:13).

Presence: Walking in the Spirit means you are never walking alone; you have a constant Counselor to navigate the complexities of life.

Summary Table: Flesh vs. Spirit

Category	The Walk of the Flesh	The Walk of the Spirit
Focus	Self-gratification and legalism	Grace and God's will
Mindset	Hostility toward God; anxiety	Life, peace, and submission
Outcome	Discord, impurity, and envy	Fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, etc.)
Power	Human willpower (which often fails)	Divine empowerment

Essentially, walking in the Spirit is an active dependence on God. It's the difference between trying to sail a boat by rowing (human effort) versus catching the wind in the sails (the Spirit's power).

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You as a body of believers, thankful for the gift of Your Presence. We ask now that You

would pour out Your Spirit afresh upon every person under the sound of my voice.

Lord, we don't want to just know about You; we want to walk with You. I pray that You would fill us to overflowing today. Renew our minds, refresh our weary hearts, and stir up the spiritual gifts within this congregation.

Grant us the discernment to hear Your still, small voice above the noise of the world. As we leave this place, help us to yield our will to Yours, so that we may truly walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Let the fruit of Your Spirit—love, joy, peace, and self-control—be the hallmark of our lives this week.

May we be empowered to carry Your light into our homes, our workplaces, and our community. We ask for Your strength to sustain us and Your wisdom to guide us.

In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.