

The Holy Spirit

Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

Introduction:

We are continuing our series on the Holy Spirit. We are looking at who He is, what He does, and what He continues to do.

Trying to live a Christian life in this season is difficult. We face extreme political polarization, challenging conversations about masks, vaccines, education, race, gender, and continual global crises.

In the midst of challenges, have you grown in holiness? Are you more loving? Are you filled with joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control? Or have you become more exhausted, jaded, anxious, emotionally spent, and/or overwhelmed? Are you relying on willpower alone to remain steadfast in our faith? Are you trying your best to stay consistent with your core Christian convictions? For many of us, it seems with each news cycle, life just gets harder and harder.

There is good news. The Bible reminds us we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is our counsel, advocate, comforter and source of wisdom. In today's passage we are going to look at what it means to walk with the Spirit and to be led by the Spirit.

As Pastor Peter pointed out, there is a battle between our flesh and Spirit. What does walking with the Spirit look like? We are going to focus on three areas: **Sowing, Resting and Belonging**

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the sermon, what stood out to you? What challenged you? Were there any questions you want answered?

Sowing

2. In the book "Baptism and Fullness," John Stott describes that our lives are divided into two fields "the flesh and the Spirit." He states that it is possible for us to sow in both fields, resulting in different harvests. Today's passage describes the two harvests – actions of the

flesh and fruit of the Spirit. It is clear that the fruit of the Spirit are far more beneficial to us. Why then do we spend some time sowing in the field of the flesh?

3. What does it look like to sow in the field of the Spirit? How do you cultivate God's desires and fruits?

Resting

4. In verse 18 it states, "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." What do you think that means?
5. "To be human is to be animated and oriented by some vision of the good life, some picture of what we think counts as 'flourishing.' And we want that. We crave it. We desire it. This is why our most fundamental mode of orientation to the world is love. We are oriented by our longings, directed by our desires. We adopt ways of life that are indexed to such visions of the good life, not usually because we 'think through' our options but rather because some picture captures our imagination." - James K.A. Smith

In our pursuit of what we crave, we often pursue things of this world to prove our worth. When we walk by the Spirit, we can learn to rest in what Jesus has done for us. There is nothing to prove. What does resting in Jesus look like?

Belonging

6. How do we know we can trust that the Holy Spirit is committed to doing this supernatural work in our lives? Read Gal. 5:24 & Phil. 1:6.

Apply

Remember, we belong to God. He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and to guide and comfort us. He promises to complete his work in our lives. Our responsibility is to walk with Him and follow his lead. Take a moment to pray and ask God to show you ways that you are still sowing in the field of the flesh. Ask him for guidance to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in your life.