

LIFE *in the* SPIRIT

The Spirit of Holiness | The Spirit and Sanctification

The New Testament calls believers “saints,” which means “holy ones.” Not surprisingly, God expects His followers to be holy in the way they live their lives, and to help with that He sends the Holy Spirit.

The Illustrations of Following the Spirit

The New Testament gives us two illustrations, two word pictures of what it is like to follow the leading of the Spirit.

_____ in the Spirit (Galatians 5)

People used to need to walk almost everywhere all the time. Galatians twice uses the image of walking as a way of talking about following the leading of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25). When Paul uses this illustration, his point seems to mean that every action we take, the whole of our lives, should be dictated by what the Spirit wants.

_____ by the Spirit (Romans 8)

Romans 8:11-13 teaches us to live by the Spirit, and that in doing so we should also kill whatever in our lives is disobedient towards God. In verse 13 we read that we should “mortify the deeds of the body.” This is a call for murder. Living by the Spirit will of necessity require the death of our old, sinful way of living.

The Process of Following the Spirit

_____ to God

At the heart of a Spirit-led holiness is the humble disposition to submit myself to God’s ways over my own. Scripture tells us that we must humble ourselves. “Submit to God” James will remind us (James 4:7). Following, by its very definition, means doing what someone else

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wants to do. If I am going to follow the leading of the Spirit, I must be ready to go wherever He sends me and do whatever He asks me.

Following God's _____

But how will the Spirit lead us? If we want to know what the Spirit of God thinks, we need only look at the Word of God which He wrote to know the answer to that question. This is because the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to lead us. The better we know Scripture, the more clearly the Spirit leads.

Constantly Being in _____

Truly walking in the Spirit demands a constant attitude of prayer. Some issues are clear – God doesn't want you to steal. But many issues are not as clear. These issues require wisdom, and as we saw previously, the Spirit is often associated with wisdom. James 1:5 tells us that God gives wisdom to all who ask. If we want to follow God's Spirit, we need the wisdom to know what He would want and ask Him to guide us.

The Results of Following the Spirit

The Spirit Brings _____

As we have seen from the beginning of this lesson, part of the reason we have been given the Holy Spirit is so that He can produce holiness in our lives. Holiness involves a consecration to God, which demands a separation from sin. If the Spirit of God is dwelling within us, we should see positive growth and change over time as we become more and more like God (cf 2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Spirit Brings _____

Many people think of the phrase "a godly person" and sadly don't think of anything close to what a godly person would look like. Often people will think of someone who is arrogant, smug, perhaps antisocial. But this is not at all the picture painted by Galatians 5. The fruit of the Spirit that we find in this passage describes what someone who is controlled by God's Spirit looks like, and it might surprise some people.

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