



# THIS.

Walking by the Holy Spirit



All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:25-27 NIV

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The point of the Christian life is to become like Jesus. It is engaging freely and directly with God who is Spirit that transforms us into the image of Jesus.

Jesus' life was about communion with God and the byproduct of that communion produced everything else.

The most important thing for us to do is THIS: Walk by the Spirit.

Walking by the Spirit means responding to the inner nudge of God towards the values of his Kingdom. And living in a posture of openness and attention to that leading.

If we are going to walk by the Spirit we need to study scripture to learn how the Spirit works, and to learn the value of the Kingdom of God.

If we are going to walk by the Spirit we have to do what the early church did and dialogue with each other about those things we think the Spirit is saying to us.

Forget the former things: do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

One of the aspects of the ministry of Holy Spirit is: the Spirit leads us to NEW things. New life, new direction, new ways of thinking and new ministry. Walking by the Spirit means we are open to the NEWNESS the Spirit is trying to create in us.

Below are three principles to welcome this aspect of the Spirit's work in our lives:

- 1) We have to cultivate our awareness that the Spirit will lead us to things we would not do on our own.
- 2) Just because the Spirit will lead you to things that you wouldn't normally do...does NOT mean the Spirit is purposefully trying to make you do things you hate.
- 3) Cultivating a willingness to risk and experiment is how we stay open to the new things the Holy Spirit is guiding us toward.

What is the newness towards which the Spirit is guiding you?

~Prayerfully guess. *I think the new thing the Spirit is doing in me is...*

Just name it. You don't have to be right. And then....

~Share your guess with someone and ask them what they think.

Give them permission to tell you what they think about that.

~Consult the Bible. Read scripture with the question:

*Is this the sort of thing God would ask someone to do?*

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:16-26 NIV

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The Holy Spirit wants to renew and redeem brokenness in us so we can be healthy and whole. The Spirit will convict us of sin, heal us of wounds and reorient our thinking. We have to tell the truth about our SIN, our STORY and our THINKING.

Holy Spirit reveal to me the things you are seeking to renew in me.

Show me areas where I am not telling the truth.

Are there sins I've never talked to anyone about?

Are there wounds that I have that I'm not talking about?

Is there unhealthy thinking in me that I have not revealed to anyone?

Will you show me what to do with this and who to talk to?

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 NIV

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19 NIV

The Spirit is uniquely present when our lives are disrupted. And in those moments the Spirit ministers to us, strengthens us, groans for us and grieves with us.

Are there disruptions that the Spirit is nudging me about?

The first thing we must realize is our natural coping mechanisms often rob us of this aspect of the Spirit's ministry.

Realize not everyone can respond well to you when your life is disrupted, but we also need to find someone who can.

It is not a question IF the Holy Spirit is groaning with me and for me. The question is *am I AWARE of it?*

Ask the Holy Spirit *what are you groaning about with me?*

Trust that whatever is brought to mind is the voice of the Spirit of God.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 NIV

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The freedom we have with the Spirit of God is that our walk doesn't have to look a certain way. Because it is not about doing the work to get the prize. It is about us responding to what the Spirit teaching us.

Where are the consistent places where you are making space to listen and learn from the Holy Spirit?

How are you doing to slow down your mind?

How are you doing something physical?

How are you doing something with other believers?

How are you doing something with scripture?

How are you doing something to serve sacrificially?