

Greater Works Christian Church
Robert A. Enos
Founder and Lead Apostle

Spiritual Maturity 2

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17 (NET)

16 But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

17 For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want.

v.16) “*live by the Spirit*”

Many translations say, “walk in the Spirit”, or “walk by the Spirit”

- The Apostolic Bible Polyglot, “in spirit, walk”
- The Amplified Bible, “walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit”
- The Complete Jewish Bible, “run your lives by the Spirit”
- The Lexham English Bible, “live by the Spirit”
- The New Living Translation, “let the Holy Spirit guide your lives”
- The Tree of Life Bible, “walk by the Ruach”
- The Youngs Literal Translation, “In the Spirit walk ye”

Each of these translations say the same thing, but the slight difference helps us to get a better picture of what it is to Live/Walk in the Spirit (by the Spirit).

Live (4043) *peripateo*

1) to walk

1a) to make one’s way, progress; to make due use of opportunities

1b) Hebrew for, to live

1b1) to regulate one’s life

1b2) to conduct one’s self

1b3) to pass one’s life

Question and Discussion: We all know the textbook definition of Walk (live) in the Spirit, but what is the real-world definition? What does it mean to walk/live in the Spirit to you?

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,”

The Kingdom of God is as vast as God Himself, and we are attempting to enter this kingdom and understand it. Today’s study will help to unlock some of the mystery of the kingdom. As we gain a better understanding of the kingdom of God we can see how we are to enter into the Kingdom and access its glory, power and authority.

Matthew 4:17

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The Kingdom of God is Within

Luke 17:20-21

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation;
21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Observation (Grk. 3907) *parateresis*

1) Observation (visual observation)

Within (Grk. 1787) *entos*

1) within, inside

1a) within you, i.e. in the midst of you

1b) within you, i.e. your soul

Romans 14:17

for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Note: As we look at this passage and the meanings of the words Jesus used we find that the Kingdom of God is not an external Kingdom as much as it is found within us. Romans 14:17 shows us that the Kingdom of God is, “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit resides within the heart of the believer as well as in our midst. Righteousness, peace and joy come from within the heart of man. Many are seeking the Kingdom of God in the wrong places, or have found something other than the Kingdom. If it isn’t righteousness, peace and joy that resonate from the Holy Spirit of God then it isn’t the Kingdom of God.

All the glory, power and authority of the Kingdom of God come from the righteousness, peace and joy that reside in the Holy Spirit. You cannot separate the Kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit.

Question and Discussion: What does it mean to repent? Share with the group a time you “repented”. What was the overall outcome of your repentance?

The Violent take the Kingdom by Force

Matthew 11:7-12

7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' houses.

9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet.

10 For this is *he* of whom it is written: 'BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.'

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Note: Jesus shows us here that the Kingdom of God is taken by the "violent." This shows what our attitude is to be in regard to gaining or entering the Kingdom of God.

"take it by force" (from Grk. 726 and 846)

(Grk. 726) ***harpazo***

- 1) to seize, carry off by force
- 2) to seize on, claim for one's self eagerly
- 3) to snatch out or away

(Grk. 846) ***autos***

- 1) himself, herself, themselves, itself
- 2) he, she, it
- 3) the same

Matthew 11:12 (*My Paraphrase*)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent takes *himself* by force.

Those who understand how the Kingdom of God is accessed will take themselves by force. They will discipline themselves understanding that by doing so they will enter into the righteousness, peace and joy of the Holy Spirit who already has taken residence in their hearts.

Question and Discussion: How are you to be violent and take yourself by force? What does this have to do with the Kingdom of Heaven? Give an example of this in your own life.

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Discipline (Grk. 5299) *hupopiazō*

- 1) to beat black and blue, to smite so as to cause bruises and livid spots
 - 1a) like a boxer one buffets his body, handle it roughly, discipline by hardships
- 2) metaphorically
 - 2a) to give one intolerable annoyance
 - 2a1) beat one out, wear one out
 - 2b) by entreaties
- 3) that part of the face that is under the eyes

In order for us to experience the glory, power and authority of the Kingdom of God we must discipline ourselves in godliness. This discipline is so important that both Jesus and Paul speak of it in a manner that includes violence. ***This is how serious we are to be if we expect to receive the things that God has for us.***

If we are to walk in the glory, power and authority of the Kingdom of God then we must discipline our minds to think only as Christ would think. We cannot embrace a carnal (fleshly) mindset. Our mind must be fixed on God and the things of God constantly.

Question and Discussion: Self-discipline should be very important to the Christian. Are you presently working on an area in your own life? If so, what (if not too personal)? What can the group pray for and how can they help you?

James 1:8

he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

The double-minded are unstable and have an impure heart. We cannot be “double-minded” about serving God in this manner. We are either going to go all the way or not at all. God is looking for people that will discipline themselves and serve Him with everything in them.

Question and Discussion: Give some examples of double-mindedness. What are the best ways to overcome double-mindedness?

Romans 8:7-8

7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose* mind *is* stayed on *You*,
Because he trusts in *You*.

When we train our hearts and minds to be on God and the things of God He will bless us, fill our lives and use us to do extraordinary things for His Glory.

Conclusion: It's time to serve God with an unwavering passion. No more excuses! Serve God as He wants us to.

Question and Discussion: On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being least and 10 being highest) what is your Spiritual Maturity level?

What are you presently doing to grow in your Spiritual Maturity?

What can the group do to help you? What can the group pray for?