

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:24-25

Introduction: The Apostle Paul has given the contrast between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. Then he comes to 5:24-25 that give a conclusion to his argument. The first part of his argument was that **the Spirit and the flesh are at battle and they produce very different things**. Verse 24 argues that **those who belong Christ have crucified the flesh**. That leads to the conclusion in verse 25:

“Take-home” truth: If you are alive by the Spirit, then you must keep in step with the Spirit.

I. A Principle: Genuine believers do not live under the power of the flesh. (5:24)

A. This principle is for genuine believers.

B. The flesh is put to death in Christ.

1. The means of death is Christ’s crucifixion.
2. Our participation in Christ’s crucifixion is by means of our union with Christ.

II. A problem: In practice, we all struggle with the flesh. (5:16-25)

A. There is a gap between what the Scriptures say we *are* as believers and the outworking of it in our lives.

B. If we don’t see the gap, we’ll never move in the right direction.

III. Our response: Those who are alive spiritually should live like it. (5:25)

A. Live this way because the Spirit of God has made you alive.

B. Live according to the standard established by the Holy Spirit.

How do we follow the Holy Spirit’s leading?

1. Know that the Spirit leads through the Word of God.
2. Give the Word the place it deserves in your life.
 - a. Your mind: You must *learn* God’s Word.
 - b. Your will: You must *live* God’s Word.
 - c. Your affections: You must *love* God’s Word.
3. Have a teachable spirit.
4. Cultivate a tender conscience that is sensitive to the Word and the Spirit.
5. Live with a sense of the fact that God is operating in your life.