

## 4 • Keeping in Step with the Holy Spirit



Throughout this study, we've explored **(1)** who the Holy Spirit is, **(2)** his role in the life of Jesus, and **(3)** his work in the revelation of the Bible—all so that you and I might

**have a relationship with God.** But our study wouldn't be complete without recognizing the call to "keep in step with" the Spirit of God. If we're going to have a relationship with God, we need to walk with God. Let's start by noticing a few key statements in **Romans 8:**

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who \_\_\_\_\_ not according to the flesh but according to the \_\_\_\_\_. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their \_\_\_\_\_ on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (8:3-6)

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (8:12-14)

Already, the apostle Paul has given us a lot to think about, but notice that he uses similar language as he writes to the churches of Galatia in **Galatians 5:**

But I say, \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident...(5:16-19)

...and he goes on in **Galatians 5:19-21** to describe a variety of ugly things that are against the will of God. But we have a different leader. We are on a better path. Our minds are set in a higher direction. We bear a different kind of "fruit."

But the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit. (5:22-25)

What does all of this mean? What's it look like in everyday life? **Let's talk about it...**

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- Our video emphasized that if we're going to have a relationship with God, we must learn to "walk with God." Why? In your own words, what does it mean to "walk with God"? Why can't I have a relationship with God and walk in my own way, in whatever directions I want?
  
- Let's open our Bibles back to **Romans 8** and do a little bit of digging together.
  - What does it mean to "walk according to the flesh" (**8:4**)?
  
  - While that's presented as a very bad idea, Paul also helps us understand our need for a different Guide. A better Leader. Let's read again **Romans 8:14**. How can I be "led by the Spirit of God"? Does being "led by the Spirit of God" mean that he takes control and forces me to do the right thing even when I don't want to?
  
  - When we are "led by the Spirit of God," what sort of things can we know and trust and build our lives on? Notice **Romans 8:15-17** and **8:26-28**.
  
- When we don't listen to the will of God and decide to stubbornly walk in a different direction, how does that make God feel? **Ephesians 4:25-32** might be a good passage to read at this point...
  
- Let's make this as practical as we possibly can. How can we know what God wants? How can we know his will for our lives? How can we know the way to "keep in step with the Spirit" (**Gal 5:25**)? What difference will keeping "in step with the Spirit" make in our everyday lives?