

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Gal 5:16 *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

Gal 5:18 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Here we see the Christian's walk and what it should be. A Christian is to walk in the Spirit and also be led by the Spirit. We are not to walk in the flesh or be led by the flesh. We have been given the Spirit of Christ in which we are to walk and are to be led. Now upon reading these two passages in context in Galatians it appears they are out of order. Usually one is first led and then follows by walking. Here the order is reversed. We first must walk and then be led. To understand why this is so we need to understand what it means to walk in the Spirit and then what it means to be led by the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit simply put is walking in faith in Christ and His revealed word.

2Co 5:7 **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

Walking by faith is walking in the Spirit. Walking by sight is walking in the flesh. More particularly walking in the Spirit is walking in faith in the Spirit of Christ within us. When we were unsaved or carnal we walked in the flesh—the resources of our fallen humanity. We lived by will power, by our intellect, and our sinful tendencies. Jesus came as our covenant representative. He took our sins upon Himself and bore them for us. He also took our sin nature and became sin for us. As our representative He died to sin. He also died to the Law. [**Rom. 7:4**] The Law was a system of rules that man had to keep by His own natural resources. Sin used the Law to hold man in bondage. The strength of sin is the Law. [**1 Cor. 15:56**] Jesus was the embodiment and fulfillment of the Law. When Jesus died He removed the requirements of the Law from us and gave Himself to be our new life source. [**Col. 3:4**] Now that we are born again, Christ lives in us by His Spirit. We can either walk trusting in our own will power, strength, and intellect or we can walk trusting in the Spirit of Christ producing for us the Christian life and fruit. It is a choice we must constantly make.

Walking in the Spirit and being led by the Spirit are the two sides of the Christian's walk. Walking in the Spirit speaks of our own decision to step out in faith trusting in the Spirit of Christ within us. Being led by the Spirit

speaks of God's work and aid in our walking. There is a man side and there is a God side. Jesus came and did all He is going to do to provide us with all things that pertain to life and godliness. [2 Peter 1:3] He suffered, died, rose from the dead, and was seated in heaven. Once he was glorified He sent His Spirit to abide in us and empower our walk of faith in the earth. However, this walk must begin with us! We first need a revelation of our own inability to live the Christian life, then a revelation of the indwelling Spirit who has been sent to empower us to walk the Christian life out. We must stop our own attempts at producing the Christian life, and receive the Christian life through the Spirit, which will produce the Christian walk. If we will decide to trust in the Spirit to produce the Christian life then He surely will empower us to walk it out. The minute we decide to trust in our own resources, then the Spirit ceases to help us. It begins with us. We walk..the Spirit leads.

What then does it mean to be led by the Spirit? The word "led" in Greek is **ago**. This Greek word translated as led, does not have the same meaning we would assign today to the word led. Today if someone said they will lead us, we would expect them to go ahead of us, and we would follow their steps. This is not what this Greek word means. A better translation for the word **ago** is to bring with, or carry along. This word implies force being applied that causes you to be propelled forward. Here are some ways this word has been used in the New Testament.

Mat 10:18 You will be **brought** before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

They would be seized and brought forcefully to the governors.

Mat 21:2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose *them* and **bring** *them* to Me.

They put a rope around the colt's neck and they tugged on the rope and brought the colt.

Mar 13:11 But when they shall **lead you**, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Again this word means they are being forcefully brought before magistrates.

Luk 4:28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Luk 4:29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they **led Him** to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

The enraged citizen's grabbed Jesus and forcefully pushed him out to the brow of the hill to push him off.

Luk 10:34 So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, **brought** him to an inn, and took care of him.

The wounded man could not fully walk himself so the good samaritan brought/carried him to the inn.

Luk 18:40 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be **brought** to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him,

This blind man could not walk to Jesus because of His physical ailment. He had to be brought by the hand by someone else.

Luk 19:27 But **bring** here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay *them* before me.' "

The enemies were forcefully brought.

Luk 22:54 Having arrested Him, they led *Him* and **brought** Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.

The officers came and grabbed Jesus and brought/pushed Jesus to the High Priest's house.

We see in the above verses we see how the Greek word ago is used. In many of the passages above the person who was led were being led against their will. However, the Spirit will never lead us against our will. That is why our decision to walk is mentioned before being led by the Spirit.

To a Greek's mind when Paul said that the Spirit would lead us, they would have in mind the Spirit to take hold of us and forcefully bring, carry, or empower us with our consent to the destination in which the Spirit intended. This kind of leading was promised by God in the New Covenant.

Eze 36:25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and **cause you to walk** in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

God promised in the New Covenant that He would cleanse us, give us a new heart, give us a new passion for Him, and then place His own Spirit in us who would **CAUSE** us to walk in His statutes. This phrase “cause you to walk” is a clear description of what Paul meant by the phrase to be “led by the Spirit”. The Spirit causes us to walk in a way in which it would not be possible for us to do otherwise.

Walking in the Spirit is contrasted with walking in the flesh. “If we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill [walk in] the lust of the flesh”. However, being led by the Spirit is contrasted with being under the Law. “If you are led by the Spirit you are not under the Law”. Walking in the Spirit means we use our will to trust in the Spirit to produce the Christian life and virtues for us instead of living by will power. We then act in faith believing the Spirit is producing it in us as we act on the Word. Being led by the Spirit speaks of God producing for us what we cannot produce for God. **The Law was God demanding from man to produce for Him what we could not produce.** God knew this, but we did not, until we failed miserably. You will not be able to walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit until you come to the complete knowledge that you cannot live the Christian life yourself. The Christian life is not hard, it is **IMPOSSIBLE**, if you try to produce it yourself! Being led by the Spirit is God providing Himself what He is demanding from us. This is grace! In the New Covenant God will never demand from us what He has not first placed within us or first produce for us.

To give a practical example of this let's say someone was mean to you. God tells us to love them and do good to them. **[Matt. 5:44]** In the flesh, you cannot love them like you should. If you trust in your own ability to try to love them, the best you could come up with was a plastic smile with clenched teeth! However, the Spirit of Christ is on the inside of us. He is love. We can simply turn to the Lord and say, “Lord in myself I cannot love

this person. However, you are in me by your Spirit. Please love this person for me! Love them through me. I trust in your love being produced in me now." You will then find both the desire and ability to be genuinely kind to them. You might even have a thought of a way to bless them in a practical way. When you act on this you will find His grace to do it genuinely and it will produce God's results! You will not only have the desire to do this but the ability to do it! One is done with clenched teeth, the other is done by God working in us to both to will and do of His good pleasure. We have the wonderful Spirit of Jesus to cause us to walk in His ways today!