



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

Keeping in Step With the Spirit

Walking is just putting one foot in front of the other and taking one step at a time. How does a baby learn to walk? Does the baby attend a ‘Learn to Walk Conference’ on the subject? Does the baby go to ‘walking school’ to study the physical mechanics of the foot, the psychology of walking or the social implications of walking? Silly you say – because we all know that every baby learns to walk by practice – practice - practice. The baby walks, falls, gets up, and walks again.

It is the same when we walk in the Spirit. We can attend all the classes and conferences available and fill countless notebooks on how to walk in the Spirit and never actually walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit, we just start walking in the Holy Spirit. And yes, we will fall but like that baby learning to walk, when we stumble in our spiritual walks, we get back up and begin again!

The Biblical ‘Norm’ Is To Walk Daily in the Spirit

Read Galatians 5:25 (ESV) ²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

The KJV translates *keep in step with the Spirit* as *walk in the Spirit*. I prefer *keep in step with the Spirit* because keeping in step is a good analogy of how it goes when we dance with a partner! The most difficult thing to master in partner dancing - is not the steps. It's the interaction between partners! ‘Lead and follow’ is the secret to getting two partners dancing smoothly together. It’s impossible for two people dancing in close contact to move seamlessly if each person is making their own decisions, choosing their own timing and doing their steps independently. They must coordinate their moves perfectly - and the only way to achieve that is for one person to direct the moves and the other person to follow. It is the same with keeping in step with the Spirit. We must allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and then follow Him in the dance steps of our spiritual walk.

Keeping in step with the Spirit means we stay in time with Him and are not running ahead of the Spirit’s leading by trying to manipulate and devise our own ‘dance steps’ concerning what we want instead of waiting on the Spirit to take the lead. Keeping in step with the Spirit also means that we don’t drag behind by hesitating to follow when the Spirit says ‘go’. The way keep in step with the Holy Spirit is by studying God’s Word, praying, worshiping, praising, and fellowshiping with God’s people.

Hindrances to Staying in Step with the Spirit

1. **Continuing in Ignorance** – When Paul arrived in Ephesus (*Acts 19*), he encountered a group of disciples who had never even heard of the Holy Spirit. For many professing Christians today, the situation is nearly as desperate. Having little instruction and sometimes misinformation in regard to the person and work of the Holy Spirit, they remain strangers to the Spirit’s fellowship and miss out on accessing the Spirit’s power. **Hebrews 5:12 (ESV) ¹² *For though by this time you ought to be teachers,***

you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,

2. **Continuing Presence of Sin in Our Lives** – It is easy to keep on sinning. We just convince ourselves that what we are doing is not sin since ‘everyone else’ is doing the same thing. **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

3. **Continuing in Fear** – It is not unusual to be afraid to follow the Spirit’s leading. **2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)** ⁷ *for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

4. **Continuing in Apathy** – Puritan William Law said: “Most Christians are just as holy as they intend to be.” **Matthew 5:6 (ESV)** ⁶ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. We have to make the choice – we either hunger and thirst for righteousness or we hunger and thirst for the things of this world.*

Read Romans 8:14-16 (ESV) ¹⁴ *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* ¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”* ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

Following the Holy Spirit’s leadership is proof that we are children of God. For believers conviction of sin and a pattern of repentance are assurances of our own salvation. We can keep in step with the Spirit even though we may stumble and fall at times.

Two things confirm that we have been released from fear into sonship: our adoption into the family of God and our ability to call God our Father. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are no longer a slave to sin. We are God’s child whom the Father adopted into His family through the blood of His Son, Jesus. It is amazing but true! Because we have been adopted into the family of God, we can call the Almighty God of Heaven, Abba, Father! Abba is Aramaic. Our closest word for Abba is probably Daddy or Papa and it is a word of endearment.

However, this childlike cry, ‘Abba’ is not just for baby talk. Abba is a word for a sweet parent/child relationship. Young and old can call our Father Abba. When we pray to Abba, the Holy Spirit is doing the same thing. On that dreadful night in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus Himself used the term. **Mark 14:36 (ESV)** ³⁶ *And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

As we learn to keep in step daily with the Spirit, we will be more aware of the Presence of our precious Abba who loves us so!

**Walking In the Spirit Means
Relying on the Spirit in Thought, Word, and Deed**

Read Romans 6:8 (ESV) ⁸ *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

When Jesus arose from the dead, He did not return to His former way of life. His nature entered into a new relationship with God and man; His body became a spiritual, glorified body. Jesus' resurrection would not have satisfied God's plan had He risen just to return to His old way of life. It is the same for us. When we have died with Christ, we are changed. Our bodies have not yet been glorified but our inner being has been made new. **Ephesians 3:16 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.*

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is evidence of salvation. **Romans 8:9 (ESV)** ⁹ *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.* The power of the Spirit within us enables us in Christian living.

Our trip to Israel in January was called Walking Where Jesus Walked. And I must confess that walking where Jesus walked was not always easy. It was uphill. It was downhill. It was down rough hewn steps and up narrow steps. It was on rocky ground. It was in strange places. And if I had not followed the leading of John Jardina, I would never have made it so well. I would have been the 'pigtail' for sure. But, we were in sync. He pulled me – he pushed me and I walked where Jesus walked.

It is the same with keeping in step with the Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us to walk where Jesus walked – not in the land of Israel but in the here and now.

Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Last Mention of the Holy Spirit in the Bible

Read Revelation 22:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

This is the last invitation that God has offered in over 2,000 years. The passage contains heaven's favorite word—*come*—three times!

The Father says:

Isaiah 1:18-19 (ESV) ¹⁸ *"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;*

The Son says:

Matthew 11:28-29 (ESV) ²⁸ *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

The Spirit says:

Revelation 22:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

The Spirit gives an 'open' invitation! Those who hear the invitation are told to also give the invitation to come. The invitation is for everyone who is thirsty. And an RSVP is required. The response is either yes or no. Christian website House to House says, "A river of blessings flows past our door, but it benefits us only if we fill a pitcher and drink. A gift is only an offer until received. In 1829, George Wilson was sentenced to be hanged in Pennsylvania for murder. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon. Wilson refused, saying that he deserved to die. The case went to the Supreme Court, which decreed that a pardon was of no value unless accepted. So George Wilson was executed. Jesus has issued pardons for all, sealed in His blood, but they benefit sinners only when accepted."

One more thing to notice about invitation: The Spirit and the Bride issue the invitation together. The church is Christ's Bride. Yes, the initial invitation was issued over 2,000 years ago but the invitation must continue to go out until the Bridegroom (Christ) returns for His Bride the church.

Our final consideration is what we as a church family and as individual Christians are doing to help everyone to hear the invitation to come – everyone who is thirsty to drink from the Water of Life that is Jesus.

We have studied about prayer. We have studied about the Holy Spirit. Next, we will study about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Now, the question is this: will we just always be studying about spiritual things and never really be about our Father's business which is found in **Matthew 28:19 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Yes, making disciples is hard work but the rewards are out of this world and making disciples is our job assignment and we can do it through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV)** ² *Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*