

Living a Spirit-controlled Life

Galatians 5:25 “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

- Being led by the Spirit is not a new thing. **Matthew 4:1 tells us “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” Romans 8:14 says, “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” Galatians 5:16 “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will gratify the desires of the flesh.” And Acts 20:22 Paul says, “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”**
- Being led by the Spirit means that you expressly except not knowing everything and trusting that where He is leading you is for His glory and your good!!
- If we are not Spirit controlled, we will miss out on what God is doing or wants to do in our lives today.
- Don't assume that a Spirit led life means he will always lead you by still waters. Notice Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to meet the devil face to face. Paul said **“I'm compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me.”**
- So here's the question: If the Bible makes it clear that being controlled by the Spirit is so vital, what prevents so many of us from fully surrendering ourselves to the Holy Spirit leading? ANSWER: Because we prefer to be in control.

- Our minds say, “I will serve the Lord but I will remain in control while I do it! That mindset is not how the church began. The church began with Spirit controlled Christians who yielded themselves to God.
- The irony of Spirit-filled living is that we have to give up power in order to gain a greater power. How many times in your Christian walk have you come to a place where you struggled to do something, so you just tried harder?
- You tried harder to read more of the Bible, Pray longer, love the unlovable, you’ve tried harder to find courage when you felt afraid. How did that work out for you? Trying harder doesn’t work out very well for believers, and flies in the face everything we have been taught all of our lives.
- Christianity isn’t a self-effort religion but rather one of dead men that have died to themselves and are now under the influence and leading of the risen Christ. **Phil.2:13, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his purpose.”** The Spirit is the only one who can produce self-discipline, love, and boldness, but to do so he has to control us daily. That’s why we cannot afford to rest on a religious experience we had years ago. It’s good to remember what God has done, but it’s better to be led by His Spirit today!!
 - So, what do we need to do to continue being lead of the Spirit?
- **2 Timothy 1:6-7 says, “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”**

- Whatever Timothy did, he was to prevent the fire from going out. He was to give attention to it. He would never fulfill the purpose of God in his life without it, and neither will we.
- Charles Finney, a nineteenth-century Presbyterian minister in his lectures on revival said, “The fullness of the Spirit is a necessity in our lives. When Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing,” He meant it.”
- When we refuse to yield to the Spirit, we miss out on the holy excitement of living beyond ourselves.
- Let me ask you some questions this morning: Is your life producing fruit or are you just getting by? Would you like to love more deeply and freely? For those things to happen you have to surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- I encourage you to get alone with God today and spend time praying about who or what is in control of your life. You and I are going to be controlled by something, there is no question about that, but as our opening scripture stated: **“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”**