

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

23/9/07

Many people don't know what it to be filled with the Spirit and of those who are filled with the spirit, even fewer understand what it means to walk in the spirit.

The sign of salvation is the sign of the anointing of the spirit. (see notes on 'the sign of salvation').

ACT 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. *How did they know? Because the sign of salvation was present once again... they spoke in tongues.*

46 For they heard them **speak with tongues**, and magnify God...

ROM 8: 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Without the anointing of the spirit, a person has no relationship with God or Christ.

ROM 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the **Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit** of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit** of Christ, he is none of his.

How do you know when you are not walking in the spirit?

GAL 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [JAM 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts].*

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these (people who are driven by sin)*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Most of us are aware of the physical sins above and the bondage of legalism, but few are aware of the spiritual sins in this list.

20 Idolatry (*includes worldliness*), witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations (*excitement of mind, ardour, fervour of spirit*), wrath (*overly passionate, spiritually angry*), strife (*a desire to put one's self forward*), seditions (*divisive rather than unifying*), heresies (*a body of men following their own tenets*), People who are too spiritual, can do as much damage as those who are driven by legalism or those who are too simplistic.

Knowing the truth of salvation and receiving the holy spirit alone, are not good enough.

JAM 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

JAM 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

LUK 17:2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend (**put any form of stumblingblock before**) **one of these little ones**. *People are equally offended by legalism as they are by over spirituality. They can also stumble by following the example of lazy Christians. All run the risk of having the blood of God's children on their hands.*

No fruit comes from these failings... when there is no fruit, people get frustrated and can make poor decisions. This is why people turn charismatic, or turn to rules or regs, or simply, they just don't turn up at all. Those who walk in the spirit enjoy the fruit of it... GAL 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: When the fruit is there, it shows, because you manage life far better.

How do you know when you are walking in the spirit?

GAL 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh (*the above failings*), but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even in this*; **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

How did Christ live up to these standards... he used the power of the holy spirit. He prayed for the sick, the weak, the arrogant, the unsaved... he was always on the lookout for ways of using the spirit, to offer words of encouragement, to assist, etc. Christ's actions included many human traits, not only supernatural powers... not all one way and certainly not all the other. He won them by the power of wisdom, not by doctrine alone.

Seek to serve others with both natural and spiritual capacity and then you can truly say, that you are walking in the spirit. Getting the balance between these two capacities is the key to success and lasting contentment. It is also a skill that only comes through practice.