

## Walking in the Spirit

### Scripture

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:25-26 NKJV)

### Commentary

The verses immediately preceding verses 25 & 26 are well known by most Christians. They spell out what the works of the flesh are and contrast them with the works of the Spirit.

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:19-23 NKJV)

We often rightly hear how a believer’s actions need to be in line with the fruits of the Spirit as verse 24 says, “And those [who are] Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24 NKJV) Believers are not to continue in sin after salvation, God forbid (Rom. 6).

However, the immediate context of this passage is often overshadowed by the profoundness of its content. Notice, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not [use] liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:13-16 NKJV) Then again above, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:25-26 NKJV)

The greatest test of our spirituality is lived out among our peers. How we treat each other reflects how much we love God as He said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15 NKJV) and, “. . . If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” (John 14:23 NKJV)

One of the greatest temptations we face appears to be conceit, and its two companions combativeness and envy. When we think we are better than others, we look down on them often provoking them to scorn us. On the other end of the spectrum, if someone seems to have more than we do, we are tempted to be envious.

Therefore, let us use our interactions as the litmus test of our spirituality. Don’t measure yourself by how many Scriptures you know, but how you live out those truths. “. . . be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues [in it], and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22-25 NKJV)