

Walking in the Spirit What does it mean?

HIGH-LEVEL STUDY GUIDE

Finding the Ancient Path

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xO7CDVr84_M&t=2628s

Designed to align with the companion presentation and the supplied teaching transcript.

Teaching Summary

This Teaching examines Paul's phrase 'walk in the Spirit' and argues that it describes a practical way of life rather than a mysterious or elite spiritual experience. It connects Paul's language with the Bible's longstanding call to walk in Yahovah's ways, statutes, commandments, truth, and light. Galatians 5 is central: the Teaching distinguishes receiving life from the Spirit from bringing one's actual conduct into step with the Spirit, contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit, and emphasizes that believers still make real choices about how they live. Romans 8 is then used to connect Spirit-led living with fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law—not as a means of earning salvation, but as the obedient evidence of living faith. The Teaching closes by asking whether the Spirit truly dwells in a person and by distinguishing genuine Spirit-produced obedience from merely behaving religiously.

Key Scriptures

- **Galatians 5:16-25** - The central passage: walk in the Spirit, works of the flesh, fruit of the Spirit, and keeping in step with the Spirit.
- **Romans 8:1-14** - Walking according to the Spirit, the righteous requirement of the law, the mind of the flesh, and the Spirit dwelling in believers.
- **Romans 2:13** - Used in the Teaching's discussion of the doers of the law being justified/vindicated.
- **Deuteronomy 6:24-25** - Obedience to Yahovah's commandments is connected with righteousness.
- **Revelation 14:12** - The Teaching highlights the saints as having both the commandments of God and the testimony/faith of Yeshua.
- **1 John 2:3-6** - Knowing Him is connected with keeping His commandments and walking as Yeshua walked.
- **1 John 1:5-7** - Walking in the light as a related New Testament description of faithful conduct.
- **2 John 4-6** - Walking in truth and love is connected with walking according to His commandments.
- **James 1:22** - The Teaching emphasizes being doers rather than hearers only.
- **Matthew 7:21-23** - Used near the conclusion to distinguish religious activity from truly belonging to Messiah.
- **Jeremiah 31:31-34** - Background for the internalization of Yahovah's instruction in the new covenant.
- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** - Yahovah gives His Spirit and causes His people to walk in His statutes.

- **Acts 2:38** - Discussed in the closing conversation regarding repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 10** - Cornelius and his household are discussed in relation to receiving the Spirit while still learning.
- **Romans 10:1-4** - Raised in discussion concerning zeal, righteousness, faith, and attempts to establish one's own righteousness.
- **Isaiah 1** - Raised in discussion about outward religious practice without the heart and obedience Yahovah desires.

Key Takeaways

- Walking in the Spirit is presented as a way of life, not an elevated mystical state reserved for unusually spiritual people.
- Paul's phrase belongs to the same biblical family of ideas as walking in Yahovah's ways, commandments, truth, and light.
- The Teaching distinguishes living by the Spirit from bringing one's conduct into step with the Spirit.
- Galatians 5:25 is explained as active partnership: the Spirit gives life and help, while the believer must choose conduct that aligns with Him.
- The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit provide visible contrasts by which a person's walk can be examined.
- The Teaching stresses 'fruit' in the singular and describes love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as expressions of Spirit-produced life.
- Self-control is emphasized as genuine self-governance empowered by the Spirit rather than the Spirit overriding a person's will.
- Persistent, deliberate practice of fleshly works is distinguished from failures that lead a believer to repentance and renewed obedience.
- Romans 8 is used to connect walking in the Spirit with fulfilling the righteous requirement of Yahovah's law.
- The Teaching distinguishes salvation through faith in Messiah from obedience as the evidence or vindication of living faith.
- Possessing the Spirit is treated as essential; merely imitating religious behavior is not the same as the Spirit dwelling within.
- The final practical test is not how religious a person appears but whether his or her life increasingly displays obedient conduct and the fruit of the Spirit.

Study Outline

1. Defining the walk

- The Teaching begins by challenging several common ideas about walking in the Spirit, from supernatural sensitivity to simply being a generally good person.

- Its proposed definition is practical: the Spirit empowers the same obedient walk Yahovah has always called His people to live.
- The emphasis is not primarily on what a person feels or experiences but on how that person walks.

2. Paul's unique phrasing

- Paul is identified as the New Testament writer who explicitly uses the phrase 'walk in the Spirit.'
- The Teaching connects Paul's wording with John's language of walking in the light, walking in truth, walking according to the commandments, and walking as Yeshua walked.
- Different expressions are presented as closely related perspectives on the same faithful way of life.

3. Living versus walking

- Galatians 5:16 and 5:25 use different Greek verbs translated 'walk.'
- The Teaching explains Galatians 5:25 as keeping in line, proceeding in order, or conducting oneself according to a standard.
- Its paraphrase is: if the Spirit is the source of your life, your actual conduct should fall into line with that Spirit.

4. The works of the flesh

- Galatians 5 contrasts fleshly conduct with Spirit-produced conduct.
- The Teaching discusses sexual immorality, uncleanness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousy, wrath, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, revelry, and related conduct.
- It distinguishes a persistent way of life from a failure that is recognized, repented of, and turned away from.

5. The fruit of the Spirit

- The Teaching notes that Paul says 'fruit' in the singular.
- Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are treated as expressions of one Spirit-produced life.
- These qualities are described practically in relationships, hardship, commitments, correction, service, and control of desires.

6. Spirit versus flesh

- The flesh and Spirit are described as opposing influences.
- The Teaching pairs fleshly outcomes with Spirit-produced alternatives: hatred with love, contention with peace, wrath with longsuffering, harshness with kindness, and uncontrolled appetite with self-control.
- The believer still decides which direction to walk; the Spirit empowers but does not eliminate personal responsibility.

7. The righteous requirement

- Romans 8:4 is central to the Teaching's conclusion that walking according to the Spirit fulfills the righteous requirement of the law.
- The Teaching interprets that requirement as the righteous obedience Yahovah's instruction calls for.
- It distinguishes faith in Messiah as the basis of salvation from obedience as evidence or vindication of genuine living faith.

8. Do you possess the Spirit?

- Romans 8:9 raises the question of whether the Spirit actually dwells in a person.
- The Teaching distinguishes Spirit-produced life from merely behaving religiously or conforming to the habits of a religious community.
- Religious activity, reputation, sacrifice, and knowledge are not treated as substitutes for the Spirit dwelling within.

9. Walking is visible

- The discussion emphasizes putting faith into practice rather than leaving it as intention or theory.
- A Spirit-led life should become visible through obedience, love, peace, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- The Teaching presents a person's walk as evidence of whether the professed spiritual life is being lived out.

10. Continuing to learn and obey

- The closing discussion distinguishes willful disobedience from a sincere believer who is still learning.
- Examples such as Cornelius and the people baptized in Acts are raised to discuss receiving the Spirit while one's understanding is still developing.
- The Teaching leaves some questions about the timing and withholding of the Spirit for further study rather than resolving every issue in this session.

Discussion & Reflection

1. What ideas about 'walking in the Spirit' does the Teaching challenge at the beginning?

2. How does the Bible's earlier language of 'walking' help explain Paul's phrase?

3. What distinction does the Teaching make between living by the Spirit and walking in step with the Spirit?

4. Why does Galatians 5 place the works of the flesh beside the fruit of the Spirit?

5. Which works of the flesh can appear in ordinary relationships rather than only in extreme behavior?

6. Why does the Teaching distinguish persistent practice from a repentant failure?

7. How are love and self-control positioned within the Teaching's discussion of the fruit of the Spirit?

8. What does the Teaching mean by faith being a partnership?

9. How does Romans 8 connect the Spirit with the righteous requirement of the law?

10. How does the Teaching distinguish salvation by faith from obedience as evidence of faith?

11. What is the difference between possessing the Spirit and merely behaving religiously?

12. What visible fruit should increasingly characterize someone who is walking in the Spirit?

13. How does the closing discussion distinguish sincere learning from willful disobedience?

Personal Application

Prayer Focus: Ask Yahovah to expose where the flesh is directing your conduct and to strengthen you through His Spirit to walk in His ways with love, obedience, humility, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- Where does my present conduct most clearly reflect the fruit of the Spirit?

- Which work of the flesh most often competes for control in my daily life?

- Am I relying on religious appearance, or is my conduct actually coming into step with the Spirit?

- What command or area of obedience do I already understand but need to put into practice?

- How can I respond to failure with repentance and renewed walking rather than resignation?
