

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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MARCH 21, 2021

“WALKING IN THE SPIRIT - AN EVERYDAY DEPENDENCE UPON GOD”

**SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe
What We Believe!**

Galatians 5:16, 25

Last Sunday we looked at the Person of The Holy Spirit the third person of the Holy Trinity. I mention about the **importance of being Filled with the Spirit according to Eph. 5:18**. So, from this verse we're told to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Scripture doesn't speak of this filling as a “helpful add-on to life” or “something to shoot for in the next five years.” No, it is nothing less than a *command period*. As I grow in the Lord, I understand that being filled with the Holy Spirit is an ongoing process. Sometimes, as I read and study the Word of God, the Spirit of God will reveal to me some area of my life or ministry that isn't under His control. And as He brings that issue to mind, I will have to yield that over to Him. We should never imagine that being filled is a once-for-all deal that you can nail down at some Bible camp when you throw a chunk of wood in the bonfire. Being filled is a continuous thing, every day seeking that the Lord would control our lives by His precious Holy Spirit.

By the way when we are filled with the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit is in our lives; **Gal.5:22-23** what will we see? Well Gods Word says, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”** And yes, it is OK to lift and raise Holy Hands unto the Lord in praise and honor of Him who is worthy.

Now this morning I want to speak about another aspect of being Filled and that is **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT**. What do I mean by walking in the Spirit? To walk in the Spirit means to live every day in dependence upon God. It is unbroken fellowship and reliance on the Holy Spirit to do what He came to do, and what He alone *can* do.

Sometimes we get the idea that the Christian life is a matter of grim determination.

Maybe that's how you were taught at some point in your life. You get up in the morning, square your shoulders, tighten your belt, set your jaw, draw in three deep breaths, and determine in your heart to live for Jesus...even if it kills you.

The Spirit-filled walk is the only option for Christians. There are at least three very significant reasons why this is true.

I. BECAUSE THE DEMANDS ARE SO GREAT

You wouldn't believe all that Scripture has to say about a Christian's “walk.” Here are just a few verses. This is no amble in the park. This is no stroll through the tulips. This is *power-walking!* Just let your ears and eyes scan those instructions and verses. Think about that list.

II. BECAUSE OUR ENEMY IS DETERMINED

When I say that we have a determined enemy who is after us, I'm not being paranoid. I'm telling you the truth. He is real, and he *is* after us. His whole goal, his whole reason for existence, is to undermine God's people. He will go to any lengths to do that. Listen to **Ephesians 6:12-13**. **In 2 Corinthians 2:11**, Paul tells us that Satan utilizes “schemes”—or “devices,” as the King James puts it. That word *scheme* means the same thing as *strategy*.

III. BECAUSE OUR FLESH IS DESTRUCTIVE

In **Galatians 5:16** we read **“Walk in the Spirit,” and what's the rest of the verse? “And you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”** The flesh is everything you are minus God. The flesh is everything you were before Christ became your Savior. Why does it seem to be so much more difficult for some than others?” Let me toss out several ideas for you to consider.

1. *Physical age versus spiritual age*
2. *The influence of our culture*
3. *The incompatibility of our lifestyle with the world's*
4. *The irresponsibility of our lives*

Now, if you want a good picture of what it's like to walk in the flesh, all you have to do is read on in **Galatians 5:19-21**, because it gives you a large-screen, full-color picture of what the flesh life is like.