

6 Walking in the Spirit

Memory Verse: Romans 8:4

NAME: _____

Once a person has been filled with the Spirit, a new quality of life begins. This is not the end, but the beginning of an exciting moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 refers to it as keeping "in step with the Spirit" (NIV), and Romans 8:4 speaks of those "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (KJV).

1. Read Colossians 1:21-23

a. What had Christ's death provided for the Colossians _____

b. How would God present them? _____

c. What condition is required for the continuing benefits of Christ's death? (1:23) _____

2. What is the positive relationship for the person who has died to self-centeredness? (Colossians 3:3) _____

What is the Christian's life like when it is "hidden with Christ in God"? _____

One Christian leader has warned, "But don't let the devil tempt you out of your hiding place." What does this advice mean to you? _____

3. In Romans 12:1, we are asked to offer our bodies as living sacrifices in a moment of time. What does Romans 12:2 urge as an ongoing experience? _____

What are some ways you are transformed by the renewing of your mind? _____

4. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Paul prays God will sanctify you through and through in a moment? What does he pray that has ongoing significance? _____

Who does the preserving or keeping? (1 Thessalonians 5:24) _____

What are some ways God preserves the people He has sanctified? _____

5. What phrases do we have in Galatians 5 that indicate an ongoing relationship with the Spirit?

a. Galatians 5:16 _____

b. Galatians 5:18 _____

c. Galatians 5:25 _____

Which phrase is most meaningful to you, and why? ? _____

6. Read Romans 8:1-4,8-9

a. What had the Spirit done for Paul? (Verse 2, "set....free" is a tense that indicates something done in a moment of time.)

b. What must be done to fulfill the law's requirements in us? (Romans 8:4)

c. What keeps you from being controlled by the flesh or lower nature or sinful nature? (Romans 8:8-9)

d. What are some specific practices that will characterize your life if you are controlled by the Spirit?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

7. Besides being filled with the Spirit and walking in the Spirit, what can people do with the Holy Spirit?

a. Acts 5:9 _____

b. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 _____

c. Ephesians 4:30 _____

What does it mean when a person grieves or saddens the Holy Spirit? _____

8. What does the Holy Spirit do for people besides filling them?

a. Acts 1:8 _____

b. Romans 8:14 _____

c. Romans 8:26 _____

d. Acts 9:31 _____

e. Acts 13:4 _____

f. Acts 20:28 _____

What is one thing the Holy Spirit has done for you since filling you? _____

9. According to 1 John 2:1-2, sin need not be a part of your Christian life but if you do sin, what should you do?

What is the promise of continuing cleansing or purifying in 1 John 1:7? _____

What does it mean for you to walk or live in the light? _____

What is some new light God has given you in the last three months? _____

10. Examine the following passages on being filled with the Spirit. Which refer to the moment one is filled with the Spirit and which refer to an ongoing relationship with the Spirit?

a. Acts 2:4 _____

b. Acts 4:8 _____

c. Acts 4:31 _____

d. Acts 6:3 _____

e. Acts 9:17 _____

f. Acts 11:24 _____

g. Acts 13:9 _____

h. Acts 13:52 _____

11. In Acts 2:4 (see 1:15; 2:1; 15:8-9) and Acts 4:31 (see 4:19-24), people are filled with the Spirit.

a Who are the people that are filled in each case? _____

b. What is the difference between the two fillings? _____

c. Tell of a time when you have needed or received a fresh infilling of the Spirit. _____

(over)

Memory Verse

In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit
(Romans 8:4, NIV)

12. What had Paul already settled? (Philippians 3:13) _____

What is he still pressing toward? (Philippians 3:10-15) _____

What have you settled? _____

What are you pressing toward? _____

13. After a Christian been filled with the Spirit and sanctified entirely, he needs an ongoing relationship with God - a walk in the Spirit. If anything breaks his relationship with God, the Christian should seek to be restored (1 John 2:1). The life of Hudson Taylor, great missionary and founder of the China Inland Mission, is a help to us at this point. He was converted to Christ at age 17. Soon after conversion, he apparently had a second crisis experience of sanctification. After years on the mission field, however, he became out of sorts and fretful. Perhaps it is best to understand if we say he renewed his sanctification. However, he now applied to his new spiritual victory a lesson learned over the years. He testified:

Do not let us change the Savior`s words [he often said in later years]. It is not "whosoever drinketh" [John 4:14, KJV]. It is not of one isolated draught He speaks, or even many but of the continuous habit of the soul. In John 6:35, also the full meaning is, "He who is habitually coming to me shall by no means hunger, and he who is believing on me shall by no means thirst".... It seems to me that where many of us err is in leaving our drinking in the past, while our thirst continues present. What we need is to be drinking - yes, thankful for each occasion which drives us to drink ever more deeply of the living water. Taken from: *Hudson Taylor`s Spiritual Secret*, by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor. N.d. Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Moody Press. Used by permission.

What lesson do you learn from this testimony? _____

14. What are three important things for you to do to walk in the Spirit?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

A Christian filled with the Spirit and walking in the Spirit needs to realize the limits of what the Spirit will do in his life. There are some things reserved for heaven. We'll investigate these issues next.

Memory Verse

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (Romans 8:4, KJV).
