The 24th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, November 8, 2026
"Experiencing the Grace of Christ: Walking By the Spirit"
Galatians 5:16-25 & John 15:1-11

If we're no longer governed by the_____as the means of earning God's favour, what_____us in the way we live? How do we resist temptation, grow in holiness, and become more like Jesus?

God didn't set us free in Christ and then leave us to figure out the Christian life on our own; He's given us His_____, who leads us, strengthens us, and gradually_____into the likeness of Jesus.

"For all who are lead by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:14)

The Christian life isn't about trying harder to be_____people; it's about learning to_____on the Holy Spirit, remaining close to Jesus, and allowing His grace to produce in us the kind of life that honours Him. (P)

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

#1. Walking by the Spirit means_____.
"Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Gal 5:16)

flesh = *sarx* = not just referring to our_____ bodies. He's talking about our _____human nature–that part of us that's inclined to put our own_____ ahead of God's will.

"For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh." (Galatians 5:17)

The presence of that struggle doesn't mean the Holy Spirit has_____us. In fact, the very struggle can be_____that the Spirit is at work within us, awakening new desires and drawing us closer toward_____.

He doesn't simply tell us to put our nose to the grindstone, grit our teeth, and try harder to overcome our sinful desires. He tells us to_____by the Spirit.

walk = *peripateo* =

Walking isn't something we do once and then consider finished. It's a_____, on-going movement, one step after another.

This is important because without the_____and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can easily get lost or _____ from the path God has set before us.

Walking by the Spirit means learning to follow His_____, and trusting His wisdom rather than relying entirely on our own_____.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Trusting in the Lord and walking by the Spirit happens in the the ordinary _____of everyday life.

This doesn't mean that every feeling or impression we have is necessarily the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will never lead us_____to the Word He's inspired.

That's why walking by the Spirit involves prayer, discernment, attentiveness to _____, and a willingness to_____what God has already revealed

"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law." (Galatians 5:18)

Paul isn't suggesting that God's_____standards no longer matter. Rather, he's reminding us that the Christian life is no longer governed by the Law as a means of earning God's_____.

Instead, we're led by the Spirit, who works within us to produce the very obedience that the Law could never create. Walking by the Spirit isn't about becoming strong enough to live_____of God; it's about learning to_____on Him more completely.

Am I genuinely seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in my daily life, or am I simply asking God to bless the decisions I've already made?

#2. Walking by the Spirit means_____.
In verses 19–21, he gives us a rather sobering list of what he calls the works of the _____.

While some sins are immediately recognizable, other, smaller sins, can quietly take root in our_____and begin to shape our attitudes,_____, and even the life of the Church.

When we allow sinful attitudes or habits to go_____, they gradually take root and begin to_____the way we think, speak, and behave.

He's not simply providing a list of things we shouldn't do; he's helping us recognize the things that are_____with the new life we've been given in Christ.

"I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:21)

He isn't suddenly suggesting that we earn our_____by being good enough or avoiding evil. That would contradict the very Gospel of grace he's spent so much time in this letter defending. Nor is he saying that a Christian who struggles with sin, or who falls into temptation and repents, has somehow lost all _____. Rather, he's warning us about a settled_____of life in which sinful behaviour is willingly embraced, normalized,_____, and left unchallenged.

There's a difference between struggling against sin and_____or making peace with it.

The grace of God doesn't simply forgive our sins; it also calls us to_____away from them.

"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:24)

When we belong to Jesus, we can no longer treat our sinful desires as though they have the right to_____our lives. We've been given a new identity, a new allegiance, and, through the Holy Spirit, a new_____to resist the things that once held us_____.

"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." (Romans 6:14)

Are there attitudes, habits, or patterns of behaviour in my life that I've begun to excuse, or even normalize, rather than surrender to God?

Walking by the Spirit means being willing to acknowledge those things, bring them before the Lord in_____, and trust Him to help us change.

#3. Walking by the Spirit means_____.

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things." (Galatians 5:22-23)

Fruit isn't something we manufacture through sheer_____; it's something that grows as a result of_____within.

"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." (John 15:4)

Jesus says that our relationship with Him and our_____–our Christian maturity and spiritual growth–works in much the same way. He's the_____ of our spiritual life.

These aren't simply admirable qualities that Christians should try to develop; they're_____of Jesus Himself.

However, as we all know only too well, this process doesn't happen overnight. Just as fruit takes time to grow and mature, spiritual growth is also_____.

Paul is describing the character of a life being_____by God's grace, not a collection of spiritual qualities from which we get to choose our favourites.

The Holy Spirit desires to shape every part of our character and to produce in us all the fruit, so that we can become more and more like_____. Sometimes He does this through the very circumstances we'd rather_____.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Jesus isn't calling us to a life of frantic religious activity or endless attempts at _____; He's calling us into a_____, ongoing relationship with Himself. And as we remain in Him, His Spirit produces what we could never produce on our own.

We can't do this on our own or in our own strength–that's why abiding is so important. Without Jesus, we can do nothing of any lasting _____. He is our strength and our_____.

Am I remaining close to Jesus? Am I spending time in His Word? Am I seeking His presence in prayer? Am I allowing His Spirit to shape my attitudes, actions, priorities, choices, and relationships?"

The Spirit who gives us new life is the same Spirit who enables us to_____in that life.