LEARNING HOW TO WALK

Discovering the Fullness of Victory - Part 5

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**Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)**   
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Do you want to win the inner civil war? Do you want to live in victory? Then learn how to walk! Walking in the Spirit is a process; once you master the technique, you'll experience the victory Paul talks about.

**Galatians 5:16 (ESV)**   
But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Three things you can do to get better at walking, and, as a result, experience victory in the Christian life.

1. Filter your influences

**Galatians 5:7-9 (NIV)**   
You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.  "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

**Galatians 5:10 (NLT)**   
I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.

2. Look for opportunities to serve others

**Galatians 5:13-14 (NLT)**   
For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In scripture **there is an undeniable connection between being filled with the Spirit of God and ministering to others.** The two go hand-in-hand.

3. Think on your feet

**Romans 8:5 (NLT)**   
Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

***Walking* in the Spirit begins with *thinking* in the Spirit.**

Paul gives us two things to think about:

**Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)**   
When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

**Galatians 5:22-24 (NLT)**   
But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

This battle against the two natures at war within us is a battle that will not end this side of heaven. We will constantly have to struggle against opposing desires, and as Paul said...

*17 ...your choices are never free from this conflict.*

As a believer, however, you have an "unfair" advantage. You have the Holy Spirit in your corner, and he can win this battle through you.