

Theme: As those made alive by the Spirit, we must keep in step with the Holy Spirit, developing a close, personal relationship with Him..

I. Intro – Sin & Nature of Christianity

- A. Key question: how to deal with sin & effects?
- B. Most deal with these by law
- C. Christianity – relationship w/ God
- D. Relationship w/ God is key to all of life

II. Indicative: Alive by the Spirit (25a)

- A. We live by the Spirit (v25a)
 - 1. Different than live/walk by Spirit in v16
 - 2. v25a – regeneration – Eph 2:5; John 3:5-8
- B. Our new status by the Spirit – changed by Spirit
 - 1. Justification – 2:16 – innocent before God
 - 2. Sons of God – 4:4-7 – God’s children & heirs
 - 3. Freedom – 5:1, 13 – to fulfill our destiny
 - 4. Sanctified – 5:16, 22-24 – free from sin’s domination
- C. Christian life – begun by the Spirit
 - 1. He opens our eyes

- 2. He raises us from spiritual death
- 3. He applies benefits of Christ to us

III. Imperative: Keep In Step with the Spirit

- A. We must keep in step with the Spirit (v25b)
 - 1. Same as “live/walk” (16) & “led” (18)
 - 2. στοιχέω – line up with; follow His steps/pattern
- B. Three characteristics of keeping in step
 - 1. It is a personal relationship w/ Spirit
 - a. Note terms – live/walk; led; keep in step
 - b. Not just philosophy or worldview
 - c. Not just set of religious rituals
 - d. Not just following ethical code
 - 2. It is a present relationship
 - a. Present verbs – live/walk; are led; keep in step
 - b. Fruit – present nourishment – v22; Jn 15:4-8
 - 3. It is a purifying relationship
 - a. Spirit overcomes sinful nature/sin – 16; 24
 - b. Spirit produces godly character – 22-23

- c. Transforms self-centered people
 - i. God centered – please Spirit – v 16-17; 2:20
 - ii. Other centered – serve others – v13-14

C. Christian life – continued by the Spirit

1. He shows us how to live
2. He empowers us to follow Him
3. He relates to us each day

IV. **Application: Alive & Walking With the Spirit**

A. Are you alive by the Spirit?

1. Do you see that you can not help yourself?
2. Dead men can't raise themselves!
3. Have you looked to Him in faith to save you?
4. Come to the blessings!

B. Are you keeping step with the Spirit?

1. Do you have personal relationship with God?
2. Do you walk with Him daily – word & prayer?
3. Is your character being changed by Him?

C. Communion & baptism

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

Galatians 5:25

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Communion & Water Baptism

Impromptu - for them to be led by Spirit

5 **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:5

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit**. 6 **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit**. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, '**You must be born again**.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with **everyone born of the Spirit**."

John 3:5-8

16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 2:16

4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4:4-7

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.... 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:1, 13

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:4-8

20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20