

Galatians 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Analysis

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Paul's exhortation based on theological reality. "If we live in the Spirit" (ei zōmen pneumati, εἰ ζῶμεν πνεύματι)—if we live by the Spirit. First-class condition: assumes true condition for argument's sake. Believers do live by the Spirit—regenerated, indwelt, empowered by the Spirit. This is indicative reality. "Let us also walk in the Spirit" (pneumati kai stoichōmen, πνεύματι καὶ στοιχῶμεν)—let us also walk in step with the Spirit, follow the Spirit, keep in line with the Spirit. Stoicheō (στοιχέω) is military term: march in rank, keep step, walk in line.

Paul moves from indicative to imperative: because we live by the Spirit, we should walk by the Spirit. Our practice should match our position. The Spirit who gave us life should direct our living. This isn't sinless perfectionism but consistent Spirit-dependence. Walk means daily conduct, moment-by-moment choices, habitual lifestyle. The same Spirit who regenerated us sanctifies us as we yield to His leading. This is practical holiness: not rule-keeping but relationship-walking with the indwelling Spirit.

Historical Context

Paul consistently moves from doctrinal indicative (what God has done) to ethical imperative (how we should live). Theology produces ethics; position determines practice. Believers aren't motivated by legal threat or promise of reward but by gratitude and reality: we are Spirit-people, so we should live Spirit-lives. This is gospel-motivated obedience: flowing from grace, empowered by the Spirit,

responding to love. Contrasts with law-motivated obedience: flowing from fear, empowered by flesh, responding to threat. Same external behaviors potentially, radically different internal dynamics.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the indicative reality ('we live in the Spirit') motivate the imperative command ('walk in the Spirit')?
2. What does it mean practically to 'keep in step' or 'march in rank' with the Spirit in daily decisions?
3. Where is there disconnect between your position (living in the Spirit) and practice (walking in the Spirit)?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	ζῶμεν	πνεύματι	πνεύματι	καὶ	στοιχῶμεν
If	we live	in the Spirit	in the Spirit	also	let us
G1487	G2198	G4151	G4151	G2532	G4748

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 5:16 (Spirit): This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Romans 8:2 (Spirit): For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

John 6:63 (Spirit): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 (Spirit): Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

1 Peter 4:6 (Spirit): For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Romans 8:10 (Spirit): And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Spirit): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Revelation 11:11 (Spirit): And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.