

ARE YOU WALKING IN THE SPIRIT?

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Turn in your bibles to Galatians chapter 5. Let's start reading in verse 13.

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ¹⁵ But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. ¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. *Galatians 5:13-21*

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. *Revelation 21:8*

The verses that we have just read and some of the verses we will read contain some words that we do not know the definitions to. Most of us do not know the definitions because we will not turn the television or computer off long enough to look them up. How many times have you read over verses that contain these words and just skipped over them without getting a full understanding of what the verses mean? Most of us end up airing our dirty laundry in public because it has not been washed by the water of the word of God in private. You cannot live by something that you will not read and study to understand. Let us look at some of these words we have been talking about:

ADULTERY: Violation of the marriage bed; a crime, or a civil injury, which introduces, or may introduce, into a family, a spurious offspring. There are 38 verses in the Bible that use the word adultery.

FORNICATION: The incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female; also, the criminal conversation of a married man with an unmarried woman. It is also defined as sex between two persons not married to each other. There are 40 verses in the Bible that use the word fornication; most of them in the New Testament.

UNCLEANNES: Foulness; dirtiness; filthiness. Want of ritual or ceremonial purity. Moral impurity; defilement by sin; sinfulness. Lewdness; incontinence.

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INCONTINENT: Not restraining the passions or appetites, particularly the sexual appetite; indulging lust without restraint or in violation of law; unchaste; lewd.

LASCIVIOUSNESS: Looseness; irregular indulgence of animal desires; wantonness; lustfulness. Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness (*Ephesians 4:19*). Tendency to excite lust, and promote irregular indulgences. It occurs 6 times in the perfect King James Bible.

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸ Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹ Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. *Ephesians 4:17-19*

The idea that is put forth here is that they are so given over to their sin that they just cannot get enough of it. It is quite possible that the Holy Ghost brought to Paul's memory Isaiah chapter five when Paul penned Ephesians 4. *Isaiah 5:18* says: "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope". The whole picture in *Isaiah 5* is one where God's people were not satisfied with a little sin, but were bringing it in by the cart load. There are six woes in Isaiah chapter 5 in verses 8, 11, 18, 20, 21, and 22. Isaiah chapter 5 is a perfect picture of the wickedness and depravity that has almost totally consumed America. We are a wicked and perverse nation.

IDOLATRY: The worship of idols, images, or any thing made by hands, or which is not God. Idolatry is of two kinds; the worship of images, statues, pictures made by hands; and the worship of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars, or of demons, angels, men and animals. Excessive attachment or veneration for any thing, or that which borders on adoration.

WITCHCRAFT: The practices of witches; sorcery; enchantments; intercourse with the devil.

Take a look at what is going on around you. Wake up Christian! You are being fed a little spiritual arsenic here and a little spiritual arsenic there. "Christians" in America have become so spiritually dumbed down that they will accept any form of entertainment coming out of Hellywood and Satan's sewer, the television. We have become so spiritually desensitized that we cannot even blush when abomination is committed before our very eyes through programming which we should not be watching to start with. Practices straight out of the occult, and by the way, out of the pits of hell, are brought into the church. There are so-called "Christian" churches that promote Harry Potter, white magic, black magic, yoga, channeling, and many other occultic practices.

The so-called New Age movement has invaded the church with its mixture of the occult, Hinduism, Buddhism, yoga, Free Masonry, eastern mysticism, theosophy, environmentalism, science fiction, and etc. Science fiction is used in television and the movies to promote the New Age polytheistic and pantheistic concept of many gods over many worlds. These are used to destroy the Biblical

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concept of one God and one Creator who is to be worshipped to the exclusion of all others and who is over all. God said His name was Jealous and that He would have no other gods before him; even an image of Himself. Note *Acts 17:29-30*:

²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. ³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: *Acts 17:29-30*

God will have NO other gods before him; not even images and pictures of Jesus.

Our society is consumed with the spiritual cyanide of the occult including witchcraft, wizardry, sorcery (including its drug induced devil worship) familiar spirits, the paranormal, and psychiatry. The filthy sewage coming out of the internet, cell phones, television, and movies is produced by devils and familiar spirits. Have you noticed the rapid and rabid increase in the last ten years of television shows and Hollywood movies dealing with magic, witchcraft, wizardry, ghosts, New Age gods, and familiar spirits? Oprah Winfrey is the high priestess of the New Age movement. She is a darling of Satan that is portrayed as an angel of light. Witches, wizards, magicians, and sorcerers fall into the category of familiar spirits and God strictly forbids his people from having any dealings with them. When you deal with them you are in fellowship with Satan and his devils. It does not matter whether the motivation is to provide activities, entertainment, and candy to innocent children. Many Independent Baptists who would not even consider allowing their children to participate in Halloween will allow them to participate in Easter egg hunts. Halloween was Satanically designed to celebrate death and hell. Pagan Easter festivities were Satanically designed to exalt pagan goddesses of fertility who in all pagan cultures was nothing more than the queen of heaven. In the pagan Easter festivals, the queen of heaven (none other than Ishtar), was celebrated with a consecrated egg, alcohol and drugs, sexual promiscuity (open fornication), and sexual perversion (sodomy). Enough said.

HATRED: Great dislike or aversion; hate; enmity. Hatred is an aversion to evil, and may spring from utter disapprobation, as the hatred of vice or meanness; or it may spring from offenses or injuries done by fellow men, or from envy or jealousy, in which case it is usually accompanied with malevolence or malignity. Extreme hatred is abhorrence or detestation. The apostle John has much to say about hatred in the Book of First John. Look at the following scriptures:

⁹ He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

¹⁰ He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. ¹¹ But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes. ¹² I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. *1 John 2:9-12*

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

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He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. ¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. *1 John 3:14-15*

¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? ²¹ And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. *1 John 4:19-21*

Solomon had this to say about hatred:

²⁰ Where no wood is, *there* the fire goeth out: so where *there is* no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. ²¹ *As coals are* to burning coals, and wood to fire; so *is* a contentious man to kindle strife. ²² The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. ²³ Burning lips and a wicked heart *are like* a potsherd covered with silver dross. ²⁴ He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; ²⁵ When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart. ²⁶ *Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.* *Proverbs 26:20-26*

To dissemble is to disassemble the truth and turn it into a lie.

Hatred is the spirit of THE DEVIL. Hate is the spirit of an unforgiving attitude between people(s) and that is the sense in which it is given in *Galatians 5*. Hatred of your brothers and sisters in Christ is of the spirit of antichrist. Might I also add that hatred of your natural family members is also ungodly and reeks of the stink of the spirit of antichrist because it makes you to be without natural affection.

Hate is not always a sin. For instance, the Bible says in *Psalms 119:128*: “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; and I hate every false way”. *Psalms 97:10* says that if you love the Lord you will hate evil. *Psalms 101:3* says: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it shall not cleave to me*”.

VARIANCE: Difference that produces dispute or controversy; disagreement; dissension; discord. A mere variance may become a war. Without a spirit of condescension, there will be an everlasting variance.

EMULATION: In a bad sense, a striving to equal or do more than others to obtain carnal favors or honors. Contest; contention; strife; competition; rivalry accompanied with a desire of depressing another.

¹² For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some

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that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. *2 Corinthians 10:12*

⁹ I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. ¹⁰ Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church. *3 John 9-10*

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. *Romans 12:3*

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. *1 Corinthians 10:12*

¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. *Galatians 6:1*

The ultimate comparison should be how do I line up with the Lord Jesus Christ and not how do I compare with my brother or sister in Christ. I am not the standard. You are not the standard. The standard is the perfect Lord Jesus Christ and His perfect WORD. If you are looking for a higher standard of living, try the holiness of God. It is the highest standard.

WRATH: Violent anger; vehement exasperation; indignation.

² Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips. ³ A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both. ⁴ Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy? ⁵ Open rebuke *is* better than secret love. ⁶ Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful. *Proverbs 27:2-6*

STRIFE: Exertion or contention for superiority; contest of emulation, either by intellectual or physical efforts. Strife may be carried on between students or between mechanics. Contention in anger or enmity; contest; struggle for victory; quarrel or war. Opposition; contrariety; contrast. Here is what God had to say about strife through James:

¹³ Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where

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envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. *James 3:13-18*

SEDITION: A factious commotion of the people, a tumultuous assembly of men rising in opposition to law or the administration of justice, and in disturbance of the public peace. In general, sedition is a local or limited insurrection in opposition to *civil* authority, as mutiny is to *military*. An example of sedition in the Old Testament was the rebellion against Moses of Aaron and Miriam in *Numbers 12* and Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in *Numbers 16*. See also the rebellion of Absalom in *2 Samuel* chapters 13-16.

HERESY: A fundamental error in religion, or an error of opinion respecting some fundamental doctrine of religion. But in countries where there is an established church, an opinion is deemed heresy, when it differs from that of the church. The Scriptures being the standard of faith, any opinion that is repugnant to its doctrines, is heresy; but as men differ in the interpretation of Scripture, an opinion deemed heretical by one body of Christians, may be deemed orthodox by another. Heresy, in law, is an offense against Christianity, consisting in a denial of some of its essential doctrines, publicly avowed and obstinately maintained. Heresy is a directed, outright denial and repudiation of a truth plainly stated in the Bible. Heresy is a deliberate, Satanic attack on the very God of the Bible since He is THE WORD OF GOD. According to *Titus 3:10*, we are to reject hereticks after the first and second admonition. *Psalms 26:5* tells us: ⁵ I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

APOSTASY: An abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or departure from one's faith or religion (WEBSTER'S). Apostasy is one result of the lack of teaching the doctrines of the Bible or the neglect to live by the known truths of the doctrines of the Bible. Apostasy is a failure to conform to a known Biblical standard or a Biblical standard that should be known. In other words, apostasy is the result of failure to apply the truths of the word of God. Many times apostasy is rooted in a lack of knowledge (my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge) Apostasy is also the result of a lack of individual discipline and a failure to enforce church discipline. It comes from a lack of desire to conform to the doctrines of the Bible because of yielding to the temptations of sin. It comes from a weakness in conforming to the Word of God rather than an outright denial of the truths of the word of God.

ENVYING: Feeling uneasiness at the superior condition and happiness of another. Mortification experienced at the supposed prosperity and happiness of another. Ill will at others, on account of some supposed superiority. *Galatians 5:21*.

MURDER: The unscriptural, sinful killing of another individual. By scriptural definition, capital

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punishment and scriptural wartime killings are NOT murder.

DRUNKENNESS: Intoxication; inebriation; a state in which a person is overwhelmed or overpowered with spirituous liquors. In our day it would include mind altering drugs in what the Bible calls sorcery.

REVELLINGS: The participation in nighttime, drunken, carousing feasts.

CONCUPISCENCE: to covet or lust after, to desire or covet. Lust; unlawful or irregular desire of sexual pleasure. In a more general sense, the coveting of carnal things, or an irregular appetite for worldly good; inclination for unlawful enjoyments. We know even secret concupiscence to be sin. “But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence” (*Romans 7:8*).

MEEKNESS: Softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations. In the Biblical sense, it speaks of humility, resignation, and submission to the will of God without murmuring or fretfulness. It is directly opposed to pride and arrogance. **True meekness** is exercising humility and gentleness in the power of the Holy Ghost of God. It has as its motivation the glory of God.

What is God’s solution to the problem of not walking in the Spirit? The solution is to pay particular attention to the following scriptures and to make a personal application of them to your own life. The problem is not my brother or my sister. It is me O Lord!

¹ Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; ² That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. ³ For the time past of *our* life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ⁴ Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with *them* to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of *you*: ⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. *1 Peter 4:1-5*

¹ Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, ² To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, *but* gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. ³ For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. *Titus 3:1-3*

²⁵ Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon

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your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. ²⁹ Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. *Ephesians 4:25-32*

⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹¹ Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all. ¹² Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. *Colossians 3:5-13*

Have you been forgiven? Luke 6:37 says to forgive and ye shall be forgiven. The whole idea is that if you will not forgive, neither will you be forgiven. Now, how many of you are guilty of continuing to walk in some of the sins we have discussed today. If so, then you are not walking in the Spirit. Can two walk together, except they be agreed (*Amos 3:3*)?

¹ Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. *1 Peter 2:1-3*

⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth. *1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

²⁰ Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. *1 Corinthians 14:20*

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,

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faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. *Galatians 5:22-26*

I want to close with some questions for you. Are you being led by the Spirit of God in your daily walk through this life? Are you responding to the leadership of the Holy Ghost in your personal relationships, in the television and movies that you watch, in the internet sites you visit, in the way you use your cell phone, and in the music that you listen to? Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. If you are saved, your body is a temple of the living God. In all of your activities, could the Lord Jesus Christ join you in those activities and events? Are you being led by God the Holy Ghost in redeeming the time? Or, are some of your activities stealing time and fellowship that rightfully belong to God? We must redeem the time because the days are evil. We must walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. We must walk in the Spirit. Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset thee. A true measure of holiness is what a man would have to stop doing if the Lord Jesus Christ were to enter into his presence. Walk in the Spirit and live in peace, power, and victory. Walk in the flesh and live in sin and worldliness and you will live in fear, weakness, and defeat. Walk in the Spirit and you will have what the power of God can do. Walk in the flesh and live in sin and worldliness and you will have what the power of your flesh can do against God. Walk in the flesh and you might even motivate God to kill you because there is a sin unto death (*1 John 5:16*).