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## Step by Step

*By Shannon Ford on March 12, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** Galatians 5

Have you ever watched little ones take their first steps? You will notice they have to learn both what to do and what not to do. For the child to learn to walk, three things are needed. First, the child needs the presence of the parent to help balance the child and pick them up when they fall. Second, the child needs the guidance of the parent to prevent the child from walking in dangerous places like steps and drop offs. Finally, the child needs the control of the parent. The more the child practices walking by holding on to the hands of the parent, the faster the child learns to walk.

Galatians 5:16-25 tells the Christian how to walk and how not to walk. For the believer to walk, one must (like the child) yield to the Holy Spirit's control and depend on both His presence and His guidance. In verses 22-23, Paul lists the nine qualities that he calls "the fruit of the Spirit." When they are present, it is evidence that a person is walking by the Spirit. Paul affirms that the law cannot make accusations against those who live in such a manner (by the Spirit) because they fulfill its requirements.

I am reminded of a song Rich Mullins wrote and recorded many years ago. The chorus says, "Oh God, You are my God and I will ever praise You. I will seek You in the morning and I will learn to walk in Your ways. And step by step You'll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days." I pray that this will be the desire of our hearts to daily walk step by step with the Spirit.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, help me keep in step with Your Spirit. Help me to live a Spirit-filled life, displaying the fruit of the Spirit, in a lost and broken world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Galatians 6

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