

**A Command and a Promise**

**Galatians 5:16** (NASB)

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and **you will not** carry out the desire of the flesh.

- > %Walk+is a command, in the imperative
- > %Carry out+is preceded by a double negative in the Greek
- > The flesh in this context is the whole person oriented to self-will and self-indulgence

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**The Conflict Between Flesh and the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:17** (NASB)

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that **you may not do the things that you please.**

- > There are two sets of strong desires operating in the believer
- > This is an on-going conflict
- > The believer wills to please God, but finds the fulfillment of this desire difficult

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**Led by the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:18** (NASB)

But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the Law.

- > %Led+in the Greek means %bring or carry+not to follow voices or subjective guidance
- > Being under law-works means being cursed (Galatians 3:10)
- > See Isaiah 63:11-14 and Romans 8:14
- > The %... then+construction is in the form of a 1<sup>st</sup> class conditional (%as is the case+).

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**Implications and Applications**

- > We have a command to walk in the Spirit; we need to practically see how we can do so
- > The promise that we will not bring the works of the flesh to completion must be believed
- > We must resist pietistic interpretations that cannot deliver what they promise
- > To be led by the Spirit is to be carried by God, by His means, and according to His promises to Himself

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**We Must Walk in the Spirit**

**Romans 8:4** (NASB)  
so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit**.

- > The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures
- > The Holy Spirit indwells all believers
- > The Holy Spirit intercedes in us and for us (Romans 8:26; Galatians 4:6)
- > The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ (John 15:26)
- > The Holy Spirit leads us to fellowship with one another in Christ (1John 1:3; 1John 4:2)

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**We Must Believe God's Promises**

**Galatians 5:16** (NKJV)  
I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and **you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh**.

- > Fulfill is *teleo*, which means bring to completion
- > The end of fulfilling the desires of the flesh is eschatological ruin
- > That we will not come to this end is God's promise

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We Must Resist Pietistic Interpretations that  
Cannot Deliver What They Promise

**1John 2:27** (NASB)

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and **you have no need for anyone to teach you**; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

- > Jeremiah 31:34 teaches this
- > Pietists claim special status above ordinary Christians

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Carried by God to Himself

**Exodus 19:4** (NASB)

**You** yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and **brought you to Myself.**

**Psalms 23:3** (NASB)

He restores my soul; **He guides me in the paths of righteousness** For His name's sake.

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We Must Repent and Believe the Gospel

**Mark 1:14, 15** (NASB)

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**

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