



International Bible Lesson

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Keeping in Step with the Spirit

February 26, 2017

Galatians 5:18-6:10

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

Those who say they believe in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible should manifest the Spirit of Jesus Christ. They may not do so perfectly, but others should see “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” in their daily life (Galatians 5:22-23). Because of the grace of Jesus Christ, Paul wrote with confidence that true believers in Christ “live by the Spirit,” and that requires a conscious, intentional, mindful decision to “keep in step with the Spirit” moment-by-moment. The Spirit leads the followers of Christ into ways of service specifically suited to them. The Spirit will not lead every believer to become a preacher or teacher, but the Spirit will lead every believer to pray for their preachers and teachers. A person can be bedridden and keep in step with the Spirit through prayer. The Spirit of prayer will lead believers to pray for others in addition to themselves. The best work of every preacher and teacher depends not only on their own prayers but also on the prayers of others. Living by the Spirit may lead a believer to gently correct and restore someone caught in sin, with the realization that they themselves can also be tempted and fall into sin (Galatians 6:1). Keeping in step with the Spirit includes looking for ways to help others carry their burdens; supporting those who teach the Bible; looking for ways to please the Spirit within us; pressing on to serve Jesus Christ and others even when we are weary; not giving up but looking for opportunities to do good to all people, “especially those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

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Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Paul lists “love” as the first fruit of the Spirit? How might love influence each fruit of the Spirit that Paul lists?
2. How can believers be guided by the Spirit and not deceived by evil spirits?
3. What are some thoughts and actions that can help believers restore “in a spirit of gentleness” one who has transgressed?
4. Explain what Paul means when he talks about sowing and reaping?
5. In these verses, what are some actions that Paul tells believers to take? From your observation or experience, which of these actions do people in the church most need to take today?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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