

Keep in Step; Galatians 5:25

I. Marching

- A. They teach you how to march in Basic Training
- B. Keeping in step is important for the entire team
- C. Not only for looks, but also to learn teamwork

II. Walk by the Spirit

- A. Galatians 5:16–17; 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- B. Desires of the flesh are opposed to the Spirit
 - 1. Matthew 26:41; Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
 - 2. Romans 8:1–9; 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- C. To keep you from doing what you want to do
 - 1. Selfishness is at the heart of all disobedience
 - 2. Romans 7:14–19; 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.
- D. We desire to do the things of God, we want to do God’s will, but we find (often enough) that we are selfishly fulfilling the desires of the flesh and not the Spirit

III. Led by the Spirit

- A. Galatians 5:18–24; 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- B. Led - to be a guiding or motivating force for someone’s actions
- C. Works of the flesh

1. Evident - clearly revealed to the mind or the senses; widely or fully known; open to or in view of all
 2. "all things like these"
 3. This is not an all inclusive list
 4. There is a clear distinction between the desires of the Spirit and with works of the flesh
 5. Matthew 15:18–20; 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."
 6. Revelation 21:8; But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
 7. The works of the flesh do not inherit the Kingdom of God
- D. Fruit of the Spirit
1. Compare the Fruit of the Spirit against the works of the flesh
 2. There is no law against these
- E. The Spirit is our guiding and motivating force
- IV. Live by the Spirit
- A. Keep in Step; live in careful observance
1. No Lone Zone when working with nuclear weapons
- B. We must live in careful observance of and by the fruit of the Spirit
1. Matthew 7:15–20; 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
 2. Our lives must be filled with the fruit of the spirit, not the works of the flesh
- C. Not conceited, provoking, or envying
1. Philippians 2:3; Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
- V. Keep in Step
- A. A settled practice lifestyle of the fruit of the Spirit
 - B. Letting the Spirit motivate and guide us into the fruit of the Spirit
 - C. Living in careful observance of and by the fruit of the Spirit