

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT
Reference: **Galatians 5:16-25** (NKJV)
Pastor Christopher Gray

The Works of the Flesh:

- ~Sexual immorality -> (Wife or husband does not make me happy so I'll just cheat.)
- ~Impurity -> (God does not make me happy so I'll just cheat.)
- ~Lustful Pleasures -> (God won't give me what I want so I'll just cheat.)
- ~ Idolatry -> (This other God offers me more of what I want so I'll just cheat.)
- ~ Sorcery -> (God's not answering my prayers so I'll get it another way, I'll just cheat.)
- ~ Hostility -> (Give me my way or else.)

The Fruit of the Spirit:

- ~ Love -> Reference: **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**
- ~ Joy -> Joy is a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us.
- ~ Peace -> Peace, in simple terms, is the absence of chaos.
- ~ Self Control -> Reference: **Proverbs 25:28**

Contrasting the Works of the Flesh with the Fruit of the Spirit:

The Greek word used for flesh is *sarx*, which refers to our sinful nature, and our human desires that are contrary to God's will.
Reference: **Romans 12:2**

The word for lust in the phrase fulfill the lust of the flesh is *epithymia*, which means a strong desire or longing.

*“One passion may seem irresistible
until a greater passion comes along.”*
David Hegg

The only way to overcome a passion for sin is with an overwhelming passion for righteousness.

Faith is a life-dominating conviction that all God has for me through obedience is better by far than anything Satan can offer me through selfishness and sin.

In contrast, the Greek word for Spirit is *pneuma*, which refers to the Holy Spirit and His control and guidance in our lives.

The word led in **verse 18** is *ago*, meaning to guide or direct. This shows that it is not a passive process, but we must actively allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in our daily lives.

The word for works is *ergon*, which indicates habitual actions or deeds.

Application:

We must understand that as believers, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Reference: **Romans 8:9**

We must actively choose to walk in the Spirit and not give in to the temptations of the flesh. Reference: **Romans 8:1**

1. Through prayer. Reference: **Ephesians 6:18**
2. Through reading God's Word.
Reference: **1 Corinthians 2:11**
3. Through seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of our lives. Reference: **Romans 8:14**

We must examine our lives and see if there are any areas where we may be giving in to the desires of the flesh. If so, we must repent and intentionally choose to live in line with the fruit of the Spirit.

We must remember that our actions and character are a reflection of our relationship with God.

Christian character traits to meditate on:

References: **Philippians 4:8; John 4:23; Isaiah 32:8; Psalm 82:3; Matthew 5:8**

Love, joy, and all that other good stuff are the fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of our efforts. We can't produce them on our own. Period. The fruit comes only as we submit our lives and let the Spirit control us.