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## Obeying the Spirit, Galatians 5:16-25

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### Introduction

- What does a Spirit-led life look like? Many of us imagine miracles, drama, and signs and wonders. That is possible, but Paul doesn't mention any of that in Galatians.
    - Moreover, how do we know the difference between following the Spirit and subjectivism? Our desire is a life of walking with the Spirit of God.
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### Consistency

- The big question of Paul's letter is *how we mature in the Christian life*.
    - Is it by the law? Secret, advanced knowledge? Paul's answer: no!
  - **Point:** Walking by the Spirit means consistency with receiving the Spirit at the beginning.
    - After beginning with the Spirit through belief in the gospel, we continue our maturity in Christ by the Spirit!
      - Not living by following rules. He wants you to grow in maturity, not follow rules like a child.
      - Not living in deconstruction.
      - Not "moving on" from the gospel.
    - Obedience to the Spirit means loyalty to the gospel of Christ. [Gal. 3:2-3](#).
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### Love

- **Point:** Walking by the Spirit means loving the covenant community.
  - Love is the greatest sign of obedience to the Spirit ([Gal. 5:5, 13-14](#)).

- Here's a test to know if one is following the Spirit:
  - Does your obedience lead to self-aggrandizement or building the community?  
Does it draw attention to the self or draw attention to the glory of God?
    - If you are living by the Spirit, you will seek to serve the gospel of God and the people of God.

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## Desire

- A final point that is easy to miss at the end of the letter (6:6).
- **Point:** Walking by the Spirit means desiring to be taught the Word.
  - The Galatian Christians were not sitting under Paul's teaching.
    - Paul instructs them on the OT in chs. 3-4. He shows them that even the old covenant was based on faith.
- So, walking by the Spirit does not mean everyday of our lives we look inside of ourselves and say, "Am I feeling something?" That will make you a nervous wreck.
  - Living by the Spirit means being devoted to the gospel, living in commitment to the community of God (service to them with yourself in the background), living in commitment to the Word of God.

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## Conclusion

- Application to today:
  - What about the more "charismatic" view?
    - Are you committed to the gospel? And do not view it as something to move past?
    - Are you committed to the Christian community? Able to receive teaching from others without bringing them under your submission?
    - Are you committed to the Word of God?