

Pastor Nathan P. Searles

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT (walk in grace)

LOVE HIM

John 14:15 (NKJV) “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

- The point is not about His love for us, it is about our love for Him.

Hebrews 12:13 (NLT) *Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.*

- The question is not “Will we struggle?” The question is “Will we look to and remain in His grace during times of struggle?”

Philippians 2:10-13 (NLT) *Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. **Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.** 13 **For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him!** (Emphasis mine).*

Galatians 6:1-2 (NKJV) *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

- This isn't about judgement, it's about love and restoration. (One Anothering)

SIN IS LIKE A CANCER – IT ATTACKS THE FLESH

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Galatians 5:16-21 (AMP) *But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]. 17 For the sinful nature has its desire which is opposed to the Spirit, and the [desire of the] Spirit opposes the sinful nature; for these [two, the sinful nature and the Spirit] are in direct opposition to each other [continually in conflict], so that you [as believers] do not [always] do whatever [good things] you want to do. 18 But if you are guided and led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. 19 Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], 21 envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

(NLT) *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

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Galatians 6:8 (AMP) *For the one who sows to his flesh [his sinful capacity, his worldliness, his disgraceful impulses] will reap from the flesh ruin and destruction, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

John 3:6 (NKJV) *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

Romans 8:3-5 (AMP) *For what the Law could not do [that is, overcome sin and remove its penalty, its power] being weakened by the flesh [man's nature without the Holy Spirit], God did: He sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful man as an offering for sin. And He condemned sin in the flesh [subdued it and overcame it in the person of His own Son], 4 so that the [righteous and just] requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not live our lives in the ways of the flesh [guided by worldliness and our sinful nature], but [live our lives] in the ways of the Spirit [guided by His power]. 5 For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are living according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose].*

GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

1 Corinthians 12:31 (AMP) *But earnestly desire and strive for the greater gifts [if acquiring them is going to be your goal]. And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one of the choicest graces and the highest of them all: unselfish love].*

1 Corinthians 13:13 (AMP) *And now there remain: faith [abiding trust in God and His promises], hope [confident expectation of eternal salvation], love [unselfish love for others growing out of God's love for me], these three [the choicest graces]; but the greatest of these is love.*

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV) *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

(NLT) *Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.*

- No matter what we choose to do we can NEVER out sin His grace

Romans 6:15 (NKJV) *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!*

- Grace is not an excuse to sin. However, even if we do He still loves us, sin doesn't stop His love.
- However, sin can stop us as when sin is at its fullest it brings forth death.
- **James 1:15** (NKJV) *Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Hebrews 2:9 (AMP) *But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while [by taking on the limitations of humanity], crowned with glory and honor because of His suffering of death, so that by the grace of God [extended to sinners] He might experience death for [the sins of] everyone.*

VS 12 (NKJV) *...work out your own salvation...*

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FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO ARE WALKING IT OUT

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (AMP) *We [earnestly] urge you, believers, admonish those who are out of line [the undisciplined, the unruly, the disorderly], encourage the timid [who lack spiritual courage], help the [spiritually] weak, be very patient with everyone [always controlling your temper].*

Hebrews 6:12 *Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.*