

Introduction:

- The jumbo Dreamlifter Aircraft touched down on the tiny Jabara Airport runway in Wichita Kansas November 21, 2013. The pilot had just previously been cleared by the tower to land at McConnell Air Force Base south by nine miles of where they were landing. "Radio traffic between McConnell's tower and the pilot indicated as much. Moments after the tower cleared the Dreamlifter to land, the air traffic controller told the pilot: "McConnell is nine miles south of you." Pilot: "Yes, sir, we just landed at the other airport." "Apparently, uh, we, uh, have landed at (Beech Factory Airport, which is between McConnell and Jabara)." McConnell: "Verify. You are on the ground at Beech airport?" Pilot: "We think so." McConnell: "... You are at Beech?" Pilot: "Affirmative." McConnell: "Are you able to make an approach, correction, a departure off the airport and back in the air and to McConnell?" Pilot: "We are working on those details, sir.".....It was soon sorted out that the plane was at Jabara. One very, very big plane at a small airport." I was later informed that the pilot had switched off the navigational system relying on the air traffic controller to help him land. Jabara's runway length of 6,101 feet is almost half the size of the one at McConnell. There were heavy skid marks at the end of the runway where the Dreamlifter stopped. McConnell spokesman Stefan Bocchino said. "From what I understand, the guy just landed and had no clue where he was landing." **APPLICATION** Make no mistake about it, the Holy Spirit is the navigational system God has provided to lead us into all truth. Switch Him off, turn instead to another source, and there's no telling where you might land.
- I want to continue in our series of Welcoming the Holy Spirit.
 - So much of our welcoming has been the picture of prayer, worship and He shows up in our services. This is good! We want that. But...
 - I want it to get much more personal today. You are in a fight for your life against your flesh and you need Holy Spirit in order to find victory. You need to welcome him! Make room for Him. Talk to Him. Put away distraction so that nothing comes between you and Him. We need his navigational abilities!
 - Gal 5:16-24
 - What is walking by the Spirit? Why is it necessary? How do we do this?

I. What is Walking By The Spirit?

- A. Paul gives us two answers as to what walking by the Spirit is.
- B. One is found in verse 18: "*But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.*" (Galatians 5:18, NLT)
 1. Note that it does not say, "when you follow the Spirit."
 2. If it said to follow the Spirit, that works but it is in the passive voice and so it means to be directed by the Spirit. For me to follow, would be in my strength for me to be directed means it is by His strength.
 3. When directed by the Spirit, puts the emphasis on H.S. not on us. That emphasis is critical.
 4. IE. Many people equate following the Spirit like following the pace car at the CokeCola 400. To follow the pace car you have to a good car, a fast car, and decent skills at driving. Get a few people to follow me around the sanctuary.

5. IE But what Paul is implying that we are to follow or be directed as if train car connected to the locomotive. When you are connected to the Holy Spirit, He leads, He set the pace, your job is to stay connected to Him. Get a few people to follow on skate boards
- C. The second answer to What is Walking by the Spirit? is found in vs. 22-23: *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"* (Galatians 5:23, NLT)
1. If our walk is to be a 'walk of the Spirit', then it must mean that we are to bear the fruit of the Spirit.
 2. Again, the emphasis is on the Spirits work not ours. He bears the fruit. He bears this kind of fruit in our lives...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. But we have to welcome Him. We have to know Him.
 3. This sounds much like *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.* Hitched to Holy Spirit *"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:4-5, NLT)
 4. So walking by the Spirit looks very much like abiding in the vine. So keep yourself connected to the vine. To produce fruit means we must be connected with Him. We want Him to be welcomed in our lives constantly.
- D. What is walking by the Spirit?
1. It is being led by the Spirit which means we are connected to Him.
 2. It is bearing fruit of the Spirit which means when we are connected this is what is being produced.
 3. The emphasis is on His work.
 4. We just have to want this! How big is your "Want to!"

II. Why is It Necessary?

- A. Again, Paul gives us two answers. The first is in verse 16 the second in verse 18
- B. The first: *"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."* (Galatians 5:16, NLT)
 1. The incentive for being directed in the Spirit (therefore connected and following) is that you wont be doing what your sinful nature craves. Great incentive.
 2. Most translations state verse 16 in the way I just shared but there are a few like the RSV that say it like a command: "Do not satisfy the desires of the flesh." When in reality it is written as promise to us when we are directed by the Spirit: NASB, *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."* Walking is a Hebraism which means, "the way of conducting ones life." The verb is imperative so the result is the promise in last half of verse.
 3. So, when we walk by the Spirit we overcome the desires of the flesh.
 - a) Flesh for the most part as used by Paul refers to the ego. "The flesh is the ego which feels an emptiness and uses the resources in its own power to try to fill it. Flesh is the "I" who tries to satisfy me with anything but God's mercy." John Piper

- b) Compare 5:24 with 2:20. 5:24 Paul says he has crucified the flesh. 2:20 He lives in the flesh. The first has to do with 'ego' I. The second has to do with his physical being.
 - c) Notice that in 5:24 the 'flesh' is crucified and in 2:20 'I' am crucified. In both it is the 'ego' or the 'I' that is crucified.
 - d) In Gal 2:20 it is the new "I" that lives by faith. "The flesh is the ego which feels an emptiness but loathes the idea of satisfying it by faith, that is by depending on the mercy of God in Christ." It prefers the legal or the licentious things to fulfill it under its own power. Look at "*For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.*" (Romans 8:7, NLT) The flesh is un-submissive to God's authority or His mercy.
 - e) So why is it necessary to be connected to the Spirit? So we do not fulfill desires of flesh.
- C. The second answer as to why it is necessary: "*But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.*" (Galatians 5:18, NLT)
- 1. The second incentive for being directed in the Spirit (therefore connected and following) is that you won't be under the law.
 - 2. The 'ego' prefers the legalistic system because it wants something to do rather than something to be and to believe/faith. To receive grace you have to be submitted to God, abiding in the vine, connected to the Spirit. It is what Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane. He understood the reward of faith.
 - 3. What the law requires... the Spirit produces... mainly love!
 - 4. What do we know so far? We know what it means to be directed by the Spirit... connected, led under His power. When we do we will not be obligated to religious duty, or fulfill lust of flesh.
 - 5. Let's look deeper into this war between the flesh and the Spirit.

III. How Can We Do It...Walk In The Spirit?

- A. How many of you have heard the preacher say, "Let the Spirit lead you." or "Allow the Spirit to direct you." You have heard those statements but yet walked away scratching your head??
- B. Let me start by giving you the answer and then break it down.
 - 1. You let the Spirit control/direct you by keeping your heart happy in God...alive in God.
 - 2. You walk in the Spirit when your heart is resting in the promises of God. It's happy there!
 - 3. In other words the Spirit reigns over the flesh when you live by faith in the Son of God who gave Himself for you.
- C. What does this look like scripturally? Let me give you five points here.
 - 1. "*For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.*" (Galatians 5:6, NLT) And Gal 5:22 says fruit of Spirit is love.
 - a) Genuine faith produces love and love drives out fear, guilt and greed and gives us an appetite for the things of God.
 - b) And if love is what real faith produces, then the way to walk in the Spirit is to have faith...or happily resting in the promises of God creates a pipeline of His Presence.
 - 2. "*But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us.*" (Galatians 5:5, NLT)

- a) When you keep your heart happy in God and resting in His promises, you are waiting through the Spirit and walking by the Spirit.
3. *"Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed."* (Galatians 3:23, NLT)
 - a) Righteousness by faith liberates/sets us free from the law. When we seek to be lead by the Spirit that is faith. Therefore I meditate on/think about His promises and how trustworthy He is.
 - b) This is how the Holy Spirit leads us and fills us!
4. *"I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ."* (Galatians 3:5, NLT)
 - a) The way to walk in the Spirit is by hearing the precious promises and Word of God and believe them. Trust in them completely. It is because you believe that Holy Spirit moves.
5. *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20, NLT)
 - a) Christ who lives in us is His Spirit...*"And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"* (Galatians 4:6, ESV)
 - b) Therefore, I live by faith in the Son of God...
6. So...how do we walk in the Spirit? The answer is simple. We stop trying to fill the emptiness of our lives with what the world offers, and put our souls at rest in God. The Spirit will work the miracle of renewal in your life when you start meditating on his wonderful promises day and night and resting in them.
 - a) *"And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.'"* (Galatians 4:6, NLT)
 - b) *"And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires."* (2 Peter 1:4, NLT)
 - c) *"For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!"* (Isaiah 64:4, NLT)

Conclusion:

- What is walking in the Spirit? It is living connected to Him so that He can direct your life.
- Why is it necessary? So that you have victory over fleshly desires, and are not bound by rules.
- How do walk in the Spirit? By faith! By having a happy heart that rests in the promises and love of God.
- Some here this morning have been trying really hard in your own strength to stop filling the emptiness in your life with fleshly desires. I believe He is simply looking for you to surrender to Him. Connect with Him and rest happily in His promises.