

SPIRITUAL CONSISTENCY

Request: “When does personal preparation for spiritual ministry end and reliance upon the Holy Spirit begin?”

I believe Paul addressed this issue in our lesson text by the Greek word **peripateo** (walk) as a present tense, active voice, imperative and second person plural (p.a.impv.2pl): “But I say, ‘**walk** by the Spirit (pneuma / ablative of means, singular, and neuter).’”

Peripateo is used figuratively to signify the whole realm of the believer’s activities of life:

Personal	school	spring break	ministry
Home	work	dating	
Family	sports	prom	
Friends	vacation	church	

The Greek word peripateo illustrates the idea of “walking around” or “encompassing” a spiritual target by the authority of the Word of God and watching the supernatural power of God the Holy Spirit work.

- Israel walking around the walls of Jericho by faith and watching the walls fall by the power of God is an illustration of it
- (Josh.6) “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days.” (Heb.11:30)

This lesson will study two aspects of Spiritual Consistency in the CWL to help us understand how to eliminate spiritual gaps in our walk with the Lord.

1. The Greek grammar of peripateo (p.a.impv.2pl) offers the answer to our request (Gal.5:16a).

- The **Present tense** means the church age believer is to walk consistently in every area of his life by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20; Gal.3:2; Rom.8:9; Jude19).
- The **Active voice** means volition (free will/ choice) is required to produce the walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The **Imperative mood** means he is commanded to keep ALL his choices oriented to walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- And **Second person plural** means that this applies to ALL Church Age Believers (CAB) [Col.3:1-2].

Before we continue, let’s apply what we have learned about peripateo to **the request** (study and preaching) (1 John 2:20, 27; John 14:26; 15:26-27) [travel] (Acts 8:26-40).

2. Paul identifies an inside enemy to walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

(Gal.5:16-17) “But I say, walk by Spirit, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. For the flesh set its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.”

- **Promise:** “And you will not carry out (ouk teleo / a.a.subj) the desires (epithumia) [lust] of the flesh.”
- **Problem:** “For the flesh set its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.” These dual natures are mutual exclusives in the CWL (1 John 1:7-10; 1 Cor.3:1-3) [pneumatikos vs sarkikos]
- **Promise keeper and problem solver - PRACTICE THE PRESENCE OF THE POWER OF THE PERSON OF THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT** [led and live by means of the indwelling of Holy Spirit] (Gal.5:18, 25; 1 Pet.2:11; 1 Thess.4:1-8).

**The goal is to eliminate spiritual gaps in the spiritually Advancing Believer’s life
(Rom.7:15-25; 8:5-9; 13:13-14)**

**The indwelling Holy Spirit is the source and sovereign power of a consistent “spiritual” walk
(2 Cor.6:16; 1 John 4:4)**