

Summary

Pastor Larry continues the 'Alive in Christ' sermon series, focusing on developing 'A New Walk' as believers. He emphasizes that the resurrection of Jesus Christ should fundamentally change how we live daily, not just our identity and mindset. The sermon explores the ongoing spiritual battle between flesh and spirit described in Galatians 5, where believers must choose daily whether to follow fleshly desires or walk in the Spirit. Pastor Larry explains that feeling this internal struggle is actually evidence that God is working in us, not a sign of failure. He stresses that walking in the Spirit is a daily decision requiring consistency and connection to God, not a one-time choice. The fruit of the Spirit naturally flows from staying connected to God, just as a branch produces fruit by remaining attached to the tree. Our walk reveals our true spiritual condition and direction in life, making it essential that believers consciously choose to follow the Spirit's leading rather than fleshly impulses.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together today to study Your Word. As we gather to discuss what it means to walk in the Spirit, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to be honest about our struggles and receptive to Your guidance. Give us wisdom to understand how to apply these truths to our daily lives. Lord, let the Holy Spirit lead our discussion and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when someone told you to 'watch your step' - either literally (like on icy ground) or figuratively (like in a tense situation). How did that warning help you?

Key Verses

- Galatians 5:16
- Galatians 5:17
- Galatians 5:19-21
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Galatians 5:24-25

- John 15:5

Questions

- According to Galatians 5:17, there's a battle between the flesh and spirit. How do you experience this struggle in your daily life, and what does Pastor Larry say this struggle actually indicates about our spiritual condition?
- Pastor Larry mentioned that 'your walk reveals your direction, your discipline, and your decisions.' What are some practical ways our daily walk demonstrates what we truly believe?
- The sermon emphasized that we don't accidentally drift into walking in the Spirit - it requires daily decisions. What are some specific daily choices you can make to ensure you're walking in the Spirit rather than the flesh?
- How does the analogy of a branch staying connected to a tree help us understand how the fruit of the Spirit is produced in our lives? What does 'staying connected' to God look like practically?
- Pastor Larry said 'feeling the struggle doesn't mean you're failing.' How can this perspective change the way we view our spiritual battles and growth?
- The works of the flesh produce 'chaos, conflict, and confusion' while the fruit of the Spirit produces positive qualities. Can you share examples of how you've seen this play out in your life or others' lives?
- What does it mean that 'your transformation is proven by your walk'? How can we evaluate whether our walk truly reflects the change Christ has made in us?
- Pastor Larry mentioned that some people are 'trying to live a resurrected life but still walking in old patterns.' What are some old patterns believers might need to change, and how can we break free from them?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you've been walking according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. Each morning, consciously choose to surrender that area to God and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your steps. At the end of each day, reflect on how you walked in that area - did you follow fleshly impulses or Spirit-led responses? Keep a simple journal of this daily choice and God's faithfulness to help you walk differently.

Key Takeaways

- The resurrection of Jesus calls us to have a new walk, not just a new identity or mindset
- There is an ongoing battle between flesh and spirit in every believer, and feeling this struggle indicates God is working in us
- Walking in the Spirit requires daily, intentional decisions rather than accidental drifting
- The fruit of the Spirit is produced through connection to God, not through our own effort or striving
- Our walk reveals our true spiritual direction and proves whether genuine transformation has occurred

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for this time of fellowship and learning together. We're grateful that through Jesus' death and resurrection, we can have a new walk and don't have to be controlled by our flesh. Help us to remember that the struggle we feel is evidence of Your work in us. Give us strength to make daily choices to walk in the Spirit rather than follow our fleshly desires. Help us stay connected to You like branches to a vine, so that Your fruit can be produced naturally in our lives. May our walk this week demonstrate the transformation You've made in us. Guide our steps and order our paths according to Your will. In Jesus' name, Amen.