

Life by the Spirit Galatians 5:16-26

The Spirit is the way biblical authors talk about God's personal presence.

The Holy Spirit is God dwelling in us.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to lead God's people in living the life God would have us live.

New and improved. This labeling has frequently and long been used in the product world. But couldn't Christ followers wear that label as well? For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether—the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. What might a new and improved version of ourselves look like? We frequently flew of the handle before Christ, but now we have more self-control. We struggled with bitterness before Christ, but now we are more grateful. We were vulgar when we spoke before Christ, but now our words are uplifting. We were pretty self-centered before Christ, but now we focus more on serving others. We were judgmental before Christ, now we are more merciful. Why is it such a big deal to demonstrate that we are new creations? Because God is on a mission to reconcile the world to himself, and he has commissioned us to carry the message. We are now Christ's ambassadors, as though God were appealing directly to them through us. As his personal representatives we say, "Make your peace with God." But it's not a super appealing message if we're the same old same old.

We are either tearing down and destroying or building up and restoring:

- Individuals
- Families
- Communities
- Nations

When we abide in Christ, we bear his fruit.

## Trinity Core Values

Gospel Transformation: Jesus alone changes lives. The Good News of Jesus is the power to redeem us, free us and continually transform all creation.

Humble Dependence: Apart from God, we can do nothing. As we walk in the Spirit, we continually submit our lives through prayer and the Word of God.

## Other Scripture:

Romans 7:4-6, 15-20; John 14:23-27; John 15:4-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Matthew 7:17-20; Galatians 5:1,7,13-15; Ephesians 3:16