

Big Idea: When the Spirit bears fruit, your life bears truth.

The Takeoff

What are the BEST and WORST riddles you've ever heard?

The worst I've heard came from my daughter, Kayda.

She heads to bathroom, and from the toilet hollars she has a riddle.

"What's brown and it goes in the potty...and it goes in the potty?"

Clearly my daughter has **missed the mark** when it comes to telling riddles.

You probably do the same thing.

Not call me from the toilet to tell me riddles. Please don't do that. Please....Please.

You miss the mark. I miss the mark. Daily. (*Romans 3:23*)

Our lives are supposed to reflect our sinless, sacrificial, servant-King Jesus but if you're anything like me you have trouble looking like him for an hour!

If you are a follower of Jesus, you have been given new life. You are a new creation!

As *Galatians 5:25* says: We LIVE BY the Spirit. He has granted us new life.

So how can we live RIGHT, now that we are NEW? How can we live like Jesus?

How can we get life right? Do you ever ask that question? Do you struggle wondering when

you'll ever stop sinning that sin and acting that way and start looking like Jesus **consistently**?

>>>Read *Colossians 3:9-10*

So the question is: **How can we get life right?**

The answer is not by a list of rules; that's religion.

The answer is we CAN'T. We cannot live right by our own power.

Our own power gets us **The Works of the flesh.**

What is "flesh?" Our sinful nature. Our old self.

- Our flesh is hostile to God (*Romans 8:7*)
- There is no good thing in our flesh (*Romans 7:18*)

>>>Read *Galatians 5:19-21*

These are the results of trying to take this new life the Holy Spirit gave us and running it by our own power.

Think of it like this:

Before our salvation we were a rusted out old station wagon in a scrap yard.

We were busy doing all those wicked works of the flesh we just read.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he turned us into your dream car.

- He made us new creations (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- He took you from DEATH into LIFE (*John 5:24*)
- We were DEAD IN SINS now we are ALIVE IN CHRIST (*Colossians 2:13, Ephesians 2:5*)
- We were BORN AGAIN (*John 3*)

So we're a shiny new sports car but the problem is we're filling our tanks with nasty creek water instead of premium test gasoline. And we wonder why we don't drive like we should; we get frustrated because we can't live right.

So how can we live right? NOT by our own power. That gets us the **works of the flesh**.

How can we live right? Paul answers this in **Galatians 5:25**:

“If we LIVE BY the Spirit (meaning he gave us new life) let us KEEP IN STEP WITH the Spirit.”
Or, let HIM empower and lead us. Some translations say “Let us WALK BY the Spirit.”

We needed the Holy Spirit to GIVE life. Now we need the Holy Spirit to LIVE life.

Galatians 5:25 again: **If we LIVE by the Spirit let us WALK by the Spirit!** To get life right we must walk by the Spirit.

What does that MEAN and what does it LOOK LIKE?

“Walk by the Spirit’ means to do what you do each day by the Spirit; live your life in all it’s details from waking up in the morning until going to sleep at night **BY** the enabling **POWER** of the Holy Spirit.” -John Piper

Think of yourself as a toaster. Toasters make toast but they **MUST** be plugged into an outlet to function. To WALK by the Spirit means you’re plugged into HIS power and relying on HIM to live right.

Verse 16 says: “Walk by the Spirit and you WILL NOT gratify the desires of the flesh.”
Basically, you won’t give in to those sinful desires of the flesh we just read about. You’ll be giving in to the holy desires of the Spirit and looking like Jesus. You’ll look like verses 22-23.

>>>Read **Galatians 5:22-23: The Fruit of the Spirit.**

It’s a list that begins with love and is all about loving.

This is what you look like when you’re “Walking by the Spirit.”

This is how you function when you’re plugged into His power.

These fruits surround your life; they just pop out of you like a fruit tree.

And let’s tie this back into the past few weeks:

When the FRUITS of the Spirit SURROUND, the GIFTS of the Spirit are SOUND.

It’s no coincidence that the Scriptures we’ve been reading in 1 Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 talk so much about LOVE being the principle requirement for using the miraculous gifts of the Spirit.

>>>Read **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

And the Spirit doesn’t bear these fruits for OUR benefit but others. (**1 Peter 4:10-11**)

Trees don’t eat their own apples. This isn’t The Wizard of Oz.

Trees don’t produce fruit for themselves but for others so that they will multiply.

The Spirit has made you a fruit bearing tree and has gifted you with power NOT for yourself but for your church; for your neighbors; for your enemies.

In **5:14** Paul says **everything** comes down to this: **Love your neighbor as yourself!**

When you walk by the Spirit you overflow with good fruit. When you are overflowing with good fruit you’ll get the gifts right and you’ll get life right, because you’re plugged into the right power source. The Big Idea: **When the Spirit bears fruit, your life bears truth.**

The Landing

To recap: **The “works of the flesh” are what you do when you “give into the desires of the flesh.” The “fruit of the Spirit” is what *appears* in your life when you “Walk by the Spirit.”**

Now the question becomes: **How do I “Walk by the Spirit?”**

1. Ask for help.

Jesus says that without him we can do nothing (*John 15:5*)
He said you don't have because you don't ask (*James 4:2-3*)
Pray that the Spirit would produce good fruit in you (*Galatians 5:22-23*)
Pray that he would remove the works of the flesh (*Jude 24; Galatians 5:16-21*)
You'll always pray the WILL of God when you pray the WORD of God.

2. Trust he'll give help.

He said he would help: *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you and cause you to walk right. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)*
Ask and it will be given to you (*Matthew 7:7-8*)
He is a good Father that already know what you need (*Matthew 7:9-11, Matthew 6:8*)

3. Work like you've got help.

Work hard now with the confidence that the Holy Spirit, your Helper, is doing what he said he would do: help you; direct you; tell you what's right and what's wrong (*John 14:26; 16:13*)
Paul said he worked hard, but it was by God's grace within him (*1 Corinthians 15:10*)
It's no longer YOU who lives but CHRIST who lives IN you (*Galatians 2:20*)
God is at work in you (*Philippians 2:12-13*)
The Greek for “Keep in step with the Spirit” literally means “follow the leader” (The Spirit)

4. Thank him for helping.

We all know WHO and WHAT we are without the power of God working in us.
Build a culture of gratitude to and dependance on the Spirit. Give thanks to HIM for bearing good fruit in you so your pride doesn't end up giving YOU credit (*Romans 1:21-22*)
Thank him for bearing fruit in YOU and in the people AROUND you (*2 Corinthians 8:16*)

5. Repeat steps 1-4.

This is a daily thing. We need daily transformation. (*Luke 9:23*)
The more automatic the fruit of the Spirit becomes in you the more people see Jesus.