

UNDER THE SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE

Brad Driedger - February 8, 2026

Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Living by the Spirit is for all of us

We can't effectively follow Jesus without the Holy Spirit pointing us to Jesus.

John 16:5–10 (NLT)

“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going.⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you.⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.⁹ The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me.

¹⁰Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.

By Jesus' estimation, the spiritual presence of God (Holy Spirit) inside of us as believers was better than his physical presence on the earth. This shows us the importance of keeping in step with the Spirit

John 16:10 (NLT)

Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.

Holy Spirit will produce God's righteous fruit in our lives beyond our natural capacity!

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Jesus intended that ALL OF US would live under the influence of the Holy Spirit, so that we could best follow His ways and reflect His kingdom!

HOW DO WE LIVE UNDER THE SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE?

1. Pursue Connection – Give the Holy Spirit room to work.

THE BIGGEST SPRITUAL BATTLE IS THE BATTLE AROUND YOUR CONNECTION WITH GOD

“If the devil can't make you sin, he'll make you busy.”

– Corrie ten Boom

“Hurry is the death of prayer and only impedes and spoils our work. It never advances it.”

– John Mark Comer

Luke 10:38-42 (NIV)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Do you truly live like spending time with God is the best and most productive thing you could be doing?

IS YOUR LENS IN LIFE PRODUCTIVITY OR PRESENCE?

Spend time:

- Verbalizing & expressing our desire for Him and our love to Him
- Verbalizing our desire to be filled with His presence & to be empowered to do His will
- Reading Scripture
- Resting in Him
- Expressing gratitude and worship to Him

2. Cultivate Awareness – Learn to listen for His leading in the day to day

Acts 8:26–31 (NLT)

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza."²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

John 14:26 (ESV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Holy Spirit in Greek: Paraklētos - "One who is called alongside to help."

Day to day questions for Holy Spirit:

- What do you want me to consider in this decision I'm trying to make?
- What do you want to teach me in this?
- How do you want me to respond?

I can choose: react in the FLESH OR pause in the SPIRIT?

Master the pause

An important part of growing in sensitivity to Holy Spirit is rooting out the sin that dulls our spiritual senses and pushes him away!

Ephesians 4:21–32 (NLT)

Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry,²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Root out:

- Unrepented Sin
- Bitterness & Unforgiveness
- Pride and Stubborness
- Compromise with worldly influences