

“Jesus Wins in Our Lives!”

We live the abundant life that Jesus promised when we walk with God and fully trust his word in every area of our lives.

1. We walk by the Spirit ...

- (Galatians 5:16 ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

2. Walking by the Spirit, the Spirit produces his fruit in our lives ...

- (Galatians 5:22–23a ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

3. Walking by the Spirit, we do not live under any law ...

- (Galatians 5:23b ESV) Against such things there is no law.
- (Romans 8:1–8 ESV) **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For **those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.** 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is

hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

4. Walking by the Spirit, we crucify the flesh ...

To crucify, in its usage that we are most familiar with, means to put to death on a cross, as Christ was put to death on a cross, but it also means to close something in, to fence it in, to destroy (or contain) its power so that it can no longer be an influence on the world around it.

This process that has already begun for those who belong to Christ. We all need to grow in this area, but those who belong to Christ have come to the realization that the influence of the natural man absolutely must be stopped, so it can no longer exert its damaging influence on our lives.

5. Walking by the Spirit, we keep in step with the Spirit ...

A. We obey the Spirit and his word from the heart.

- (Romans 6:17–18 ESV) But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart** to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

B. We do not grieve the Spirit.

- (Ephesians 4:30–32 ESV) **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,** by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

C. We are filled with the Spirit.

- (Ephesians 5:15–18 ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit,**

D. The Spirit produces his fruit in our lives.

- (Galatians 5:22–23 ESV) **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

“The Thief Wins in Our Lives!”

The thief wins when he plays to our pride and diverts our attention away from the true Shepherd and the good pasture he offers.

- (Galatians 5:26 ESV) **Let us not become conceited,** provoking one another, envying one another.

For instance the thief will attempt to legitimize “another way” or “some other way” into the sheepfold and the abundance that Christ offers.

- (John 10:1 ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by **another way,** that man is a thief and a robber.

1. The thief robs by offering “another way” into the sheepfold—another gospel.

- (Galatians 1:6–7 ESV) I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to **a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one,** but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
- (2 Corinthians 11:3–4 ESV) But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your

thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims **another Jesus** than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive **a different spirit** from the one you received, or if you accept **a different gospel** from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

2. The thief robs by offering different pasture land.

- (John 10:9–10 ESV) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, **he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.** 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**

3. The thief robs by legitimizing the works of the law.

- (Galatians 3:10 ESV) For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

4. The thief robs by undermining our freedom and bringing us into slavery.

- (2 Peter 2:19 ESV) They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.
- (Galatians 2:4 ESV) Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery.
- (Galatians 5:1 ESV) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.