

**Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Archives Transcript****Dr. Ron Kydd****Broadway Tabernacle, Vancouver****Holy Spirit Seminar, Part 1:****Walking in the Spirit****17 Oct. 1982, AM Service**

Our Father, thank you for the opportunity we have to gather in your house and worship you and open our lives to you and ask your blessing upon us. Father, we're coming to your word now and Lord I would pray that the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts might be acceptable in your sight for you are our Lord and our Redeemer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Periodically I find myself stopping and reminiscing about life. Hi. My name is Ron Kydd. Accept the free gift from your Watkins man and oh, choose one of these of the hand cream. I'll just step in and share one with you. Well, I used to be a Watkins man. (Laughter) Between terms of Bible College and University I made a little bit of money and paid the bills by pounding the sidewalk. I have very vivid recollections of going to a sales conference and meetings over in the Watkins Building over on Henry Avenue in Winnipeg and getting all pumped up and juiced up over floor polish, lipstick, black pepper, you name it. What we were supposed to do then of course was barge out of the sales room and onto the streets and sell, sell, sell, sell, sell. I established records as a salesman of Watkins products, not for volume of sales but for numbers of calls made without sales! (Laughter) It was really rather frustrating for those who worked with me and to myself chiefly as I would come back and report that yes, I had another morning with all kinds of calls, but no takers. They would shift me from location to location in the city hoping that the penny would drop somewhere and that something would happen. But it really never did very often.

But I learned a great deal during those summers. I didn't learn much about managing finances with marvellous sums of money, but I learned something about the power of

the consumer. Here was J. H. Watkins and all his boys doing their best to produce their product and turn on us salesmen so that when we came to your door you would buy, you would be impressed with whatever it was we were presenting that day. But so many times I found myself confronted by the consumer. What an awesome person she was. (Laughter) Usually she would have her hair in pin curlers or rollers and she would be standing there with a wooden spoon dripping with batter. She would say something eloquent like “what do you want” and I would tell her and she would just radiate all kinds of boredom and say, “Look, I’m doing something important. I’m making scrambled eggs. Would you go away?” It was quite an experience. I discovered that Joe and Sally Consumer wielded a great deal of power that influenced my future significantly.

But I have also observed that those of us in the church who function as ministers and theologians or teachers or whatever, we try to market ideas too. It’s rather fascinating to observe that sometimes you, Joe and Sally Consumer, will buy what we’re presenting and sometimes you resist what we’re presenting.

One of the ideas that I think has really met with resistance is the idea of walking in the spirit. Along comes some evangelist who really is walking with the Lord and he tells you you’ve all got to walk in the spirit. You hear what he says and you say, “Yeow, what did he say?” I know how to walk in the rain. I know how to walk in a shopping mall. But walk in the spirit? You take in the words and you do an evaluation and you say, “Well, that sounds all right but I don’t understand what you’re saying. It’s obscure and it is probably irrelevant to life as most of us live it.” I think there has been a tendency for Christians by and large to kind of, in most cases, politely shove it aside, the idea of walking in the spirit. Because it’s just too airy-fairy for those of us who live in the real world.

What I want to say this morning is that in fact walking in the spirit is one of the most urgent and important concepts that you as a Christian can consider. Walking in the spirit is a lifestyle. It is a lifestyle which is expected of every one of us who is a Christian and a lifestyle which is available to every one of us who is a Christian. I want to center my thoughts on Galatians 5:16-25. There are three points that arise out of this passage that I want to draw to your attention.

First of all I would like to underline the idea that walking in the spirit is a lifestyle. It's a way of living in this world. I sometimes think that we have thought of walking in the spirit as an altered state of consciousness. The one who walks in the spirit is really different. You can always tell them because when the door opens and they come into the room, they don't walk in, they float. There is something about the eyes of a person who walks in the spirit, they sort of flash and sparkle. There's just something about the whole way that person carries herself or himself. The person who walks in the spirit is really different. What I want to suggest is that in fact walking in the spirit is not that at all. When we talk about walking in the spirit we're not talking about a specific experience. We're talking about a total approach to life. I look at this passage and what I see coming from it is the idea that we are supposed to live as people who walk in the spirit. It's a matter of life. I read down in verses 16, 17, the idea is put before us by drawing a contrast between the flesh and the spirit. Paul says walk by the spirit. Do not gratify the desires of the flesh for the desires of the flesh are against the spirit, and so on. As he goes through his discussion of this particular concept it becomes obvious that you can either walk according to the flesh or walk according to the spirit. What he means by that is that you can either on one hand live day by day by day a life which is given over to serve the flesh or you can live day by day by day a life that is given over to serve the spirit. He's talking about a lifestyle.

That becomes very clear when we look at verses 19-23 of Galatians 5. The works of the flesh are plain; immorality, impurity, licentiousness, adultery, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness and so on and so on. But then he goes on in verse 22. *But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* He's talking about a manner of living. Walking in the spirit is a lifestyle. It's a way of living one's life. Some of the comments are particularly significant. As you look at verse 20 you discover something about this walk in the spirit. You discover something about it by Paul's lists of what it is not. It is not jealousy. It is not anger. It is not selfishness. It is not enmity. It is not envy. So what is it? It is selflessness. It's a lifestyle in which the person is living not to pull things around herself to make her life comfortable, but a lifestyle which a person is living so that he can focus his attention outwards.

Then you look down at verses 22 and 23. We see more clearly what this lifestyle is all about. It is a lifestyle dedicated to service. The person who walks in the spirit is characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This person is a person who looks into the world in which he is living and sees people with needs and attempts to respond to those needs. I am delighted to say that in this particular church, because Broadway Tabernacle, in my opinion, is a model of an assembly which is attempting to reach into the community in which it lives in every way possible. Because you see the person who walks in the spirit lives a life devoted to service. The person who walks in the spirit is concerned about the teenage girl who becomes pregnant and tries to help her and not put her down. The person who walks in the spirit is interested in the mentally and physically handicapped and tries not to shun them and avoid them because it's awkward but rather to make a means of reaching to those people so they can find the fullness of Christ among other brothers and sisters. The person who walks in the spirit is interested in the Native peoples of Canada. A person who walks in the spirit isn't content to look downtown and see the "drunken Indian" and say isn't that terrible. The person who walks in the spirit is trying to understand those people and find a way of touching the lives of those people. You see walking in the spirit is a lifestyle.

Walking in the spirit isn't a drawing into oneself to become spiritual. I'm going to be a marvellous spiritual person. I'm going to pray for twenty-eight hours a day. I'm going to become so close to God you wouldn't believe it. That's not walking in the spirit.

Walking in the spirit is moving into the world in which we live taking the power and the love and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with us. The person who walks in the spirit lives to serve the generation in which she finds herself. So the first point, then, walking in the spirit is a lifestyle.

Secondly, walking in the spirit is available to all, all Christians. Every single believer in the Lord is both expected to and can walk in the spirit. There has been a false distinction that has appeared in the history of the church and it has been a distinction between the really holy people on one hand and the common unwashed herd on the other. Back in the early church there were some astonishing examples of this. The one

who stands most strikingly in my mind is Simeon Stylite. He was a pillar saint. In his pursuit of God he decided to rise to new heights and ultimately found himself on the top of a seventy foot pillar where he lived for thirty-five years. He spent thirty-five years on top of that pillar seeking God and praying. Everybody else came, emperors, bishops, whoever, everybody else looked up – believe me – looked up to Simeon and said that this man is holy. People would come to him and kind of shout up and say, “Simeon, what should I do about...?” They came wanting advice from him because they thought he was peculiarly – and he was – close to God. Here was a person who was spiritual. Here was a person who was devoting his life to finding out about God. The rest of them, they were kind of in the kingdom but they were second rate.

We make that kind of a distinction too sometimes. I look at the distinguished brethren sitting behind me on the platform. These guys are paid to pray. You know what I mean. They are called by the Lord into a vocation of ministry. They have given their lives to serve others. And as they have done that there tends to appear a kind of aura around them. So you walk into Pastor Hornby’s office and you realize that you are in the ‘presence’. (Laughter) There’s just something about the minister which is extraordinary. It’s really interesting for me to see how this happens and it happens over and over again. I have contact with people ministering in various churches and they want to be prayed for about something. They seek me out because I’m one of them, too. I’m a holy man. I’m a preacher. They seek me out or they look for their pastor. A brother or a sister in the assembly may be available to pray but well, you know, preachers do this professionally. They know how to pray and the rest of us are kind of working away at it but we’re not so hot. So let’s go and get the preacher to pray for us. That happens and it’s understandable why that happens.

But what I want to say is that is not God’s vision of what the church is all about. As far as God is concerned everyone who is a believer is in the kingdom and is supposed to be walking in the spirit and can walk in the spirit. Look at Galatians 5:25. Paul says *if we live by the spirit let us also walk by the spirit*. Who lives by the spirit? Every single person who is a Christian, every individual who names the Lord Jesus Christ lives by the spirit and is supposed to walk by the spirit. The preachers, the evangelists, the

missionaries, yes. But also every single person who names the Lord Jesus Christ. Every single person who is a Christian is supposed to be living a life of selfless service in the world in which he or she finds himself or herself. Every single one.

And furthermore, it's possible. You know, hey, just a minute. I work eight hours a day and sometimes I work twelve hours a day when I do overtime. And you know, when I have to do that I fix cars and I get covered with grease and I drop wrenches in the wrong places and bump my head when I stand up. Walk in the spirit? It's okay for you preachers because you've got nothing to do but pray anyhow. But for the rest of us who are working it is very, very difficult.

I am reminded of 1 John 4:4. Little children, you are of God, we read, and you have overcome them. *Because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.* Little children, you are of God and you have overcome them because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. What that says to me is that every individual in whom Jesus Christ lives, in whom the power of the spirit is found, every person can overcome the world. Every individual can walk in the spirit. Every person with no exemptions can be a person from whose life flows the love and the grace and the power and the mercy and the compassion of Jesus Christ. Walking in the spirit is a lifestyle and it is a lifestyle which is available to every individual Christian.

Another point from this passage. Walking in the spirit requires decision. It has been annoying to me over the years to discover that I don't just walk in the spirit automatically. Just because I accept Christ as my Lord doesn't mean I am going to automatically walk in the spirit. Just because I get baptized in the spirit and speak in tongues doesn't mean I'm going to walk in the spirit. Lo and behold there is a decision, there are a series of decisions for me to make if in fact I am going to walk in the spirit. That is implied very clearly in all of these verses. You read through chapter 5 of Galatians, verses 16-23, and you see Paul laying out two ways of living. On one hand is the life of the flesh and on the other hand is the life of the spirit. The very obvious message that we are to pick up is that you can choose to do one or the other. But the fact of the matter is you must choose. That is implied throughout this passage of scripture but it is made very explicit in some other places.

Look at Romans 8:5. There Paul says to set the mind on the things of the flesh is to walk after the flesh. To set the mind on the things of the spirit is to walk after the spirit. So Paul is saying where you set your mind, what you fix your attention on will determine whether you walk after the flesh or walk after the spirit. Look at Colossians 3:2. There Paul says fix, set your mind on things above. I would just like to suggest to you or perhaps inform you that if you're going to walk in the spirit you are going to have to set your mind on the things of the spirit. You will not walk in the spirit if you fill your waking hours with thoughts about *The Edge of Night* or *General Hospital* or whatever, or whoever is going to run off with whichever wife this time. If that's what is occupying your thinking forget about walking in the spirit. You are not going to walk in the spirit if you are spending all of your time trying to figure out to get the siding up to your cabin up at the lake because you want to spend all of your weekends there next summer. If that's what is dominating your thinking you are not going to walk in the spirit. If you are spending your time watching whatever happens to float into your living room on your colour television set morning, noon and night you are not going to walk in the spirit.

If you allow yourself to get trapped into the hassles and the hurriedness of contemporary living you are not going to walk in the spirit. You see, all of this applies as much to those of us who pray for pay and for those of you who don't. Every individual Christian has to make a decision about where her mind is going to be set. And if our minds are set on the things of the spirit then we will walk in the spirit. I have a feeling that by and large the church has been a little resistant, Christianity in general, toward the idea of walking in the spirit, not because we're not really turned off completely, but because it's too airy-fairy. It's sort of Never-Never-Land, what do you mean, walking in the spirit? Goodness, I have to become kind of dingy in order to do that.

Well, the point I'm trying to make is this that walking in the spirit is a way of living life which will bring Jesus Christ in his love and his power and his grace and his fullness into the world in which we live. Walking in the spirit is a lifestyle. It's a lifestyle that is expected of every one of us who is a believer and which is available to every one of us who is a believer. But whether or not it happens depends upon what we do with our minds. If we set our minds on the things of the spirit it will happen. We will walk in the

spirit. But if we choose not to we won't. But I think of Galatians 5:25. Everyone who is alive by the spirit is to walk in the spirit.

If you're enjoying the blessings of salvation, if you're happy about the relationship that you have with God through Jesus Christ then you are supposed to be walking in the spirit. God expects it of you. God expects it of me. And God expects us to prioritize our lives in such a way that he can get through to us and so that his Son can be lived out through our lives. Amen.

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