

Live by the Spirit
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If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25

I've never been very good at three-legged races. I'm not sure if it is my short legs, my inability to move quickly, or my complete lack of coordination that makes this activity so difficult for me. No matter what I do, I just can't seem to stay "in step" with my partner.

We are reminded in the verse above to "keep in step with the Spirit". Think about it as a three-legged race with the Holy Spirit. As a baptized Child of God, the Spirit is at work in me. The Spirit first leads me to God's Word and to God's gifts in worship. The Spirit then leads me to love others and care for creation as I faithfully fulfill my vocations in life. That same Spirit empowers me to confess my sin and forgive others, to proclaim the Gospel, and to pray continually. But because I still struggle with sin, there are times when I don't want to "keep in step with the Spirit". I find myself trying to "walk" all on my own or in a completely different direction altogether.

We are called to "keep in step with the Spirit" because the Spirit leads us to live according to God's good design for life. But before the Spirit teaches us to walk – He gives us life! Don't miss how the verse above begins, "If we live by the Spirit". The Spirit working through Word & Sacrament has created faith in our hearts and given us eyes to see Jesus as Lord and Savior. Since we have been made alive in Christ by the power of the Spirit, we now get to keep in step with the Spirit. The Spirit "walks" us to God's gifts of Word & Sacrament, but then we are led back into the world to love, care, confess, forgive, proclaim, work, and pray - all for the benefit of our neighbor and to the glory of God!