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Sermon preached by Mr J K Popham at Galeed Chapel
Brighton Sunday evening 5.7.1925

TEXT: Galatians Chapter 5 verse 25

"If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit"

Having noticed this morning what it is to live in the Spirit, it remains that by the help of God we should speak of what it is to walk in the Spirit.

The principle of life must, will manifest itself in operation; it cannot be inoperative. Life is a moving thing; it cannot be still. It shows itself in the operation of walking. Walking is an act, an operation of life. In the scripture walking is attributed first of all to God. He walked. "Thou walkest through the sea with Thine horses" He went, He operated. There was a cloud between Israel and the Egyptians; made a path for the people of His choice and caused the waters to return in their strength and swallow up their enemies. There was operation. Jesus walked upon the water. It was not a mere act of walking. It was a manifestation of omnipotence. He walked in the awful, blessed operation of omnipotence. His steps, as He moved on the water, were steps of omnipotence, turning the water into a rock, as it were, for His sacred mighty feet. So in His people the principle of spiritual life is operative, moves, and here that operating principle is spoken of as walking. If we live in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in us, if the Lord, the Holy Ghost, is in our hearts, as the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, making us free from the law of sin and death, it will manifest itself in the motions of our hearts, and this is ascribed to faith. It is spoken of as walking by faith, not by sight. Faith has a grand object, the Almighty God. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is" Now God knows how many of us have this walk, that is to say to how many of

us He is real. He knows. But certainly to as many as have in them the Spirit of Christ, God is real, glorious in our view; awful in His majesty, approachable in His mercy, beautiful in His salvation, wonderful in His working. If we believe in God we shall believe in His manifestations. He has manifested Himself. He is not an idea but is a Being, and because the creature could never find Him out He has revealed Himself. What a mercy that God is a self revealing God. He has revealed Himself and in such a way as to veil and make bearable His majesty, and His glory, even in our own nature. Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh. This is to faith an object beautiful, attractive, suitable, all covering the case of a sinner.

Let us look at this as enabled for a few minutes. We shall walk in the manifestations which God has been pleased to make of Himself, in the Person of Christ. It is written in the Hebrews "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds" By Him also He upholds them by the word of His power, and this Lord Jesus is the brightness of His Father's glory, the express image of His Person. You cannot have faith and not see this Person sometimes, and if you have faith in Him then you will enter into the word of Paul in the Hebrews "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" Do we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. This is an exhortation founded on this great truth that the person lives in the Spirit, that the Spirit of Christ is in him and he therefore is exhorted. Exhortations are very proper to living people. It is not at all incongruous that a father should say to his children now it is my will that you should walk in such and such things and ways. It is not incongruous to say to His dear family, I have given you my

Spirit, bestowed upon you My grace, have redeemed you by My Son, giving His life for you, now walk according to all that. Walk according to the principle of life that is in you; according to the directions of the gospel, to its doctrines and to its precepts.

Take then in the first place, the walking by faith in the death of Christ. The death of Christ is the life of the church. The death of Christ is the plea, the argument, the prevailing argument of every believing person approaching to God. Access to His Majesty, prevalence with Him in prayer always must come from a believing view and a following on after that which is viewed in order for salvation. If we believe we are to walk according to that faith, according to the principle of life in the soul. It being spiritual, the walk must be spiritual; it being from the Spirit of God, the walk must be according to His teaching and the teaching of the Spirit is to bring Christ to view, and make Him known, and faith then gazing particularly and directly in that direction after Christ. This is asserted by the people of God whose lives, characters, and experiences are given in the word of God. You take the Psalmist. He says in one Psalm "My soul followeth hard after Thee" Again "As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul after Thee O God" "My soul thirsteth after God as a thirsty land" Again, when in exile, and shut out from the services of God, he looked on the sparrow and on the swallow, with envy and said "Yea the sparrow hath found an house and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young" and then his panting soul went out in that exclamation "on Thine altars O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God." Perhaps I need not remind you that this is Calvin's translation of that word. Our text is "Even Thine altars" but he translates it "On Thine altars" Lord, these creatures of Thy hands have their nests, there they have their homes, there is their life, there is their good. Let my soul, panting as it is for Thee, come to Thee. There was life and there was earnestness. He was unable to prosecute the great design of

his soul. He would fain be near his God, and so by the Spirit of Life, the principle of the Spirit of Life in him, he followed hard after God. The direction of the Lord to Abraham was of the same nature "I am Almighty God, walk before Me and be thou perfect" or sincere. A different state that from the sleeping and slumbering of the virgins. Walk before Me. Let your faith be in exercise upon Me; come before Me with your cases; lay before me your necessities; I know them but I will have you bring them to Me; speak, open thy mouth wide in petitions, bring all you want and all you care about, especially your soul, bring them to Me. Walk before Me.

If you walk before the merit, the infinite merit of Christ's sacrifice, you cannot despair. If you walk before the blessed liberty that Christ gives to His people, you cannot be content to be in bondage. If you walk before His righteousness you cannot be content to be ashamed with those filthy rags that you have by nature. If you walk before His power, you cannot be content to be defeated by sin and to be laid low in your own weakness. Walk before Me Abraham. Walk before My promise. Keep it before you. Walk before My faithfulness; eye that when you are sinking and instead of looking at the deadness of your own body and that of your wife, look at My life giving power, My creating hand. This is the faith that I want, that you need, that we all need and must have if we be a child of God.

Let us walk in the Spirit according to the operations of life in the soul. Walk before the Lord Jesus then. When we eye sin in ourselves, when we look at legality in us, when we consider the many shameful defeats we have sustained at the hand of sin, when we consider how we have yielded to temptation, how we have given way to rebellion, how we have limited the Lord by our own little vision, as if He were just bounded by our own horizon, then how we stagger like a drunken man, and come quickly to our wits' end. Oh but faith rises and goes beyond our own limitations. Our

limitations are soon reached. Faith gets beyond them; faith looks to the Saviour, sees His sufficiency and His suitableness in every particular and says "Lord help me" A needy sinner, a lost creature, help me. Help me to believe; help me to hope; help me to lay hold; help me to keep hold of Thyself in Thy gospel. Let us walk in the Spirit. The Spirit of Faith. You will find this, that as you believe, difficulties will flow down. As you believe, just in the measure of your faith, so will God rise and self sink. So you will enter into the language of John "He must increase but I must decrease" He, infinite and incapable of extension in Himself, must increase in my judgment, in my own view, in the eye of my faith, and I as I see Him grow must go down, must decrease, but it is not pleasant to a proud nature to get less and less and weaker and weaker and viler and viler. It is not pleasant. You young people in the ways of God, you do not know, and mercifully the Lord does not reveal it all at once, you do not know how you have got to decrease. I have been a good many years learning that very slowly, very reluctantly, glad through my wicked heart to forget it, but God has said learn it again, learn it again, come again into this straight place; come again into a sense of your own weakness and vileness and then when that has been done up has risen Christ. Oh wondrous Person, oh glorious Jesus. When He is set up and faith moves to Him then that is seen. We walk by faith and I think this may be said here that this walking by faith has wrapped up in it that earnestness, that liveliness which every child of God at times longs to feel in himself. It is as in the chapter, part of which I read, the minding the things of the Spirit, not curiously looking at them as they pass before you, but minding them, attending to them, meditating on them, regarding their origin, regarding their power, and their beauty and their glory and how, if they be but made over to you, they will enrich you. When something of importance and great interest to you in nature is brought before you, you do not just glance at it and then put it aside. You look at it in all its bearings, you think about it in this view, you

look at it from another view-point, you just constantly more or less diligently, according to your mind and its capacity, look at the thing about which, in which, you are so interested. Do you believe? Is the Spirit within you? Then the things of the Spirit you will mind. They wont be matters of more or less indifference to you but matters of infinite importance. They relate to your standing before God; they relate to the exercises of your soul; they relate to your spiritual life and prosperity and the neglect of them brings barrenness, darkness, confusion, and hardness of heart; brings distance, defilement, and shutting up. Minding the things of the Spirit then is of very vast importance and this minding of the things of the Spirit is in the same chapter spoken of as walking, looking at, taking notice of, earnestly seeking. In the Proverbs it is spoken of as digging, searching for wisdom as for hid treasure, and says the sinner, it is worth all the labour. A dead, heady high Calvinist would say, oh it is all a matter of sovereignty and so he turns the grace of God into lasciviousness. A living soul says, I am hungry. Is there bread to be had, and when his faith sees that there is bread to be had, then the bare-facedness of the importunate beggar becomes his. As you know the word importunate bears that meaning bare-facedness. A face that is not covered with shame at the hard begging, at the pressing of the case before God. Lord I want something. Like that man, I have a guest and I have nothing to give to him. O friend rise, though it be midnight and give me loaves. Lend me three loaves. No says the man in bed, I cannot and though friendship will not move him off his bed, the bare-facedness, the hard begging and the beggar's evident determination not to go home without loaves brings him down, opens the door and fills his hand. Oh I wish I were like this and I wish you were. We are very sleepy for the most part, poor half alive things, if as much as that, things ready to die, things I say ready to die. Walking in the Spirit is then a diligent thing.

Let us walk in the Spirit of Faith, faith that lays hold of the Lamb, that is more than mere notion or whim. Faith that says union with Christ is what I need and desire and seek. Faith seeing Him as having all the fulness of the Godhead bodily dwelling in Him, runs to Him. This then is one part of the walking in the Spirit. Now do we complain of leanness? Do we say sincerely and with a feeling heart "My leanness, my leanness" The treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. Do our bones, which were not seen, stick out, declaring the poverty and the leanness of our condition? Do you live in the Spirit? Do I live in the Spirit? Then says Paul walk in the Spirit. Would you provide thorns for your dying pillow? Would you provide the enemy, yea your own conscience, with accusations? Then walk carelessly, or go to sleep. But if you would walk before God according to the principle of life in you, I speak to the Lord's people, then regard this exhortation. Let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us remember what Solomon says "The soul of the diligent shall be made fat" Also what he says in another place "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep" A solemn sleep it is. A child of God will be wakened out of it but oh what a wakening it will be.

Let us walk in the Spirit of Love. Walk in love as dear children. There is an example given to us there. "Even as Christ also hath loved us and given Himself a sweet smelling savour unto God" Now love has in it several things, properties; has in it as first of all its object. Real love must have an object, has an object; it is called forth into exercise by its object being present to it, either to its present embrace or in its view as desirable. The love of God in your souls, in my soul, if indeed it be there, has an object. We speak to that object sometimes

Jesus I love Thy charming Name

Let us walk in that Spirit. Love does not stick at a little A few shavings or straws in the path of love will not

stumble it. You will find that your love will go out to Him but what when there are real difficulties? What when the things are not fancied, but real? What if the devil, Appolyan, stands before you and straddles, as Bunyan has it, across the way and declares that you a deserter shall go no further? O love wont give in. What if Christ leaves you? What if He lets you be put in prison an neither sends a message, nor pays you a visit for some time, what does He say in such a case? "Blessed is He whosoever shall not be offended in Me" You may be offended with His dealings, but blessed are you, if you can love Him through His dealings; love Him in His dealings; love Him for His dealings; looking for a blessed result of His dealings. O it is great to love Christ. She did love Him when she saw Him as we are told in the Song. When she saw Him and made an attempt to describe His Person in response to the invitation of the daughters "What is thy beloved more than another beloved O thou fairest among women" and when she had done her best she has to say "He is altogether lovely" I cannot enter fully into it but I say this of Him "He is the chiefest among ten thousand, He is altogether lovely" Now walking in the Spirit is walking in love to Him, cleaving to Him. Love wont go away; love must, if it is possible, have its object, be gratified with it; be filled with it. Paul speaks in one place of being somewhat filled with the company of the saints. A saint says O I would be somewhat filled with the company of my best beloved. I would be in His embrace, have Him in my embrace. I would look at His Person, admire His wonderful glory, and look to and live upon His infinite merit. I would walk with Him as a friend, if He would permit it, condescend to it; if He would say to me "Henceforth I call you not a servant, but a friend." Does He offend you? Does His providence offend you? Does it come right athwart your path or affections, your tenderest affections? Has the Lord touched something that is most precious to you? Perhaps the most precious thing you have got in the world and nature says "This is not wise, this is not kind" Perhaps you say to the Lord (some have

said it I know; I know one who has said it) Lord I cannot walk properly with this crooked thing, mercifully take it away. He says I will make crooked things straight. I wont take that thing away, and put a straight one in its place, I will make that crooked thing straight; that rough place that you stumble in, that rough place with boulders, stones, and holes and difficulties in it, I will make that plain. I will exalt that valley, I will lay low that mountain. O what a God He is, and says love I know He is. I would expound this a little if I might. I do not want to dilute it with my own incapacity and lack of grace, but I would like a little to expound this wonderful truth. Walking in the Spirit of Love. This Spirit, this affectionate spirit, this spirit of which Paul speaks in the Corinthians that thinks no evil. If you have an evil thought of God as a christian, you are sorry for it afterwards. It thinketh no evil. Hopeth all things of Him, beareth all things about His providential dealings, believeth all things that He has said, is not offended. O but this is not nature. Nature says it is not a good way at all; it is offended. Blessed is that christian whose heart says God is right. You have a beautiful example of this affectionate regard in David, when in his straits and difficulties, he would not have the Ark of God out of its proper place. Carry it back, he said to his friends; carry it back into the City, let that be where it ought to be. "If the Lord delight in me He will bring me again, and I shall see both it and His habitation, but if He say I have no pleasure in thee, behold here am I, let Him do what seemeth Him good".

Then too if you have this spirit of love, you wont be content to be far from the object of it. Now I have thought this one of the blackest things I have ever had in my case, that I can live sometimes without the Lord. I am not distressed as I should be. Have you had Him lately? If you say no, then I would put another question. Have you been comfortable? Let us walk in the Spirit. Let us look after that blessed one and pant for His presence. Let us walk in

the Spirit of Christ who points out the place where He is on the cross, in the garden, in heaven interceding. Let us walk in the Spirit of Faith in His priesthood of love, cleaving to Him as our great High Priest. If we live in the Spirit of Christ let us walk in the Spirit of Christ in respect of love. Then also if we have love to Him we shall certainly have love to His own things. "He that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him" It was a good sign in a good man; it is said to have been in him because he was a good man. When Barnabas, who was sent to Antioch to visit the new disciples there, came to Antioch and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, for he was a good man. Are you glad to meet a child of God. Did you ever get so carnal as even if you saw one coming toward you in the street you felt rather sorry, felt as if well I do not want to see him, I am too carnal, I have nothing to say with respect to the things of God. Now there may come a time when you will say I would like to meet that friend and perhaps the Lord wont let you, for He does resent wrong things in His children; He does resent them. One of the best things I sometimes have had has been that, a sense that God has resented my wickedness. If you walk contrary to Him He will walk contrary to you. He said My soul shall not abhor you, but as you walk contrary to Me, I will walk contrary to you, and then if these who have walked contrary to Him say, with all the uncircumcision of their heart, that they are sorry and turn again then says the Lord I will turn to them. They shall seek Me and find Me when they search for Me with all their heart.

Let us walk in the Spirit of patience in tribulation. Tribulation is a very irritating thing to our nature. Nobody likes the flail laid across his back. What is the chaff to the what saith the Lord. You must walk circumspectly here. There is a word that has respect to our feet. Let us walk circumspectly, steadily; be careful how we put down our feet when we are in a path of tribulation. Walk in the way of rebellion and that leads to a dry land.

"The rebellious dwell in a dry land" And then the enemy says to the sinner, you will never get out of it. You have got into it, you will never get out of it. O but he is a liar, as Christ said. Listen, if there should be one here in that case and place "Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive, Thou hast received gifts for men, yea for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. And so you will get now and again a view of Him who is a plentiful rain to refresh and establish His weary inheritance. Patient in tribulation, waiting on God, walking before Him in His judgment. Yea in the way of Thy judgment have we waited for Thee O Lord and the desire of our soul is to Thy Name and to the remembrance of Thee. If we expect a smooth way to heaven we shall be disappointed, but if, finding the way to heaven rough, we have patience given us to keep the word of Christ's patience, it will turn out well. "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell therein."

And now lastly and very briefly, let us walk in the spirit of humble, grateful obedience to His word, His gospel in which are precepts. Let us walk in humble obedience. My brethren what has Christ done for us. "I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep" Your shepherd, your good shepherd, who thought it not too much to do that, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men and then humbled Himself even unto death. What has He done? Sent His good Spirit to you; infused the Spirit of life into your souls that were dead. And what has He done by the Spirit? Given you views of Himself, whispered His mercies into your distracted hearts and again and again let down some sweet smell, and imprinted some divine kiss of love, and then He says "If ye love Me keep My commandments." Are they grievous to the old man? They are. Are they grievous?

Not to faith. "I will run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou hast enlarged my heart." What say some of you? What must you say if you speak honestly as to God's dealings with you? What must you say? You must say this. "He has been very kind, gracious, merciful, loving; has paid you some visits; spoken to you some heavenly truths. Now He says "Keep My commandments." What are they? Are there any commandments in the gospel, are not all the commandments of God confined within the ten words, the ten commandments? Does not the Decalogue keep and contain all of them? No there are the commandments of the Holy Apostles; the commandments of the Lord Jesus. What are they? There are two important ones. "Go" was the command of Christ to His disciples, Apostles, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Discipline, teach the nations, deliver to them the doctrines I have delivered to you. What I have whispered in your ears in secret, go and proclaim upon the housetops, and tell them this. Discipline them and baptise them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. I expect some of you are not comfortable sometimes to sit aside. God give you grace to walk in His holy commandments, then having done that to go to His dear well spread gospel table, sitting at which He Himself is, saying "Eat O friends, and drink, yea drink abundantly O beloved."