

IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

Romans 12:1-8
Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
November 13, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

Need to know “how to do something” BOOKSTORE a myriad of “How to manual” prominently displayed. Don’t even need to go the bookstore, just a mouse click away. BOMBARDED by ads that grab attention. One SIMPLE trick to get rid of Stubborn belly fat. 6 foods you must never eat if you want 6 pack abs. Want to get rich? ... who doesn’t? ... Rich Dad Poor Dad
Single and in need of the perfect mate ... “Become Your Own Matchmaker”
Coll or Grad school; ink wet on diploma; toughest job market ... Monster’s Graduate Job Search Guide
Or tired of your job, need to get out ... Monster’s How to Make a Career Change.

While all these may seem important/urgent, pale in compare to **HOW TO KEEP IN STEP WITH SPIRIT ...**

How to section of Bible ... Romans 12 **PAGE 803** ... Holy Spirit unnamed but permeates chapter.

Four steps to keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. Praying all week that God would speak to me, to you ... Sense the Spirit’s prompting. If God is calling you ... come down front at the end of our service.

Want to walk with the Spirit, be filled with the Spirit, keep in step with the Spirit, come alive in the Spirit. Want to experience everything we’ve been reading about in “forgotten God?” Clear pathway ...

Step #1 Surrender - v. 1 “offer your bodies as living sacrifices”. *Present, process.*

Problem with living sacrifices is that they keep crawling down off the altar.

Not my will, but God’s will. Acknowledge that I can’t do His will apart from His power.

I know, you might be afraid of what God will ask of you. After all, look what God asked Abram to give up.

Ill. Living sacrifice; Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22, had waited 25 years, all their hopes bound up in one son. Place on the altar. Offer up to God ... DREAMS, expectations, hopes, plans.

TO OFFER YOURSELF AS A SACRIFICE. **Not just parts, but all, everything.** Lifting, raising up to God.

Giving it to God, again and again. Daily. Just doesn’t get any easier either.

Releasing & letting go ... what in your life is hardest to surrender?

Ill. Kids, spouse (Eric & Michelle / Harry & Becky), parents, job you loved.

Ill. House ... may have to sell it. Designed it, built it, perfect for family. Give it up, let it go.

What are you holding on to that God wants you to give up?

Step #2 Immersion - v. 2 “do not be conformed to the pattern of this world ... transformed

... what in your world are most influenced by? What are you allowing to shape thinking; world view?

Ill. Letting media sources dictate how we view life. FOX or Drudge or WSJ or USAToday. DECERNING

Ill. Percentage of time looking shackled to technology... email, facebook, twitter, devices. BOUNDARIES

Ill. Friends **1 Cor 15:33³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”** ASSOCIATIONS
Separation ... DETACH (detox) then ATTACH (pursue).

Ill. How to learn a new language ... immersion. Move to that country where no one speaks English. Stop speaking native tongue, forced to learn a new language.

How we get our minds renewed? IMMERSION. IMMERSED in world, try being immersed in word.

Soaking. Daily. Quoting verse when you go to sleep.

1 Corinth 2:12¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Step #3 Humility – v. 3 *“do not think of yourself more highly than you ought ... sober judgment.”*

Self-assessment ... does pride disqualify you or doubt paralyze you? Either way you're out.

Ill. Self-image too high. **Phil 2 ... Your attitude should be that of Christ ... who made Himself nothing.**

Ill. Wife who thought she was a singer ... husband finally told her; sadly, quite a strain on their marriage.

Ill. Self-image too low. **Psalms 8 ... what is man ... little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor**

Ill. Sat on sidelines never did anything; thought wasn't good enough. Not good enough; YOU'RE RIGHT. GOD WILL NOT WASTE YOU. GOD WANTS TO USE YOU ... HUMBLE YOURSELF.

Step #4 Discovery – vv.4-8 *“let him ... “ 7 times; quality it produces ... the joy.*

Action ... what do you love to do and what are you good at doing? Don't let anyone or anything stop you.

Ill. In order to learn to swim you have to get wet. Surf have to get into the waves. Surf board museum.

Ill. Can't drive a parked car. Turn on radio, AC, adjust seat, bluetooth phone. Won't go anywhere until start up, put it in drive, step on gas; get into the flow of traffic ... find yourself enjoying the ride.

Start by asking yourself what do I love to do AND what am I good at? Then engage it; 6-8 weeks.

Ill. Hallie 10 swimming, soccer, baseball, basketball. Flute, violin, guitar. Trying them all out to see what Life in the Spirit is not the path of least resistance ... takes persistence and hard work, struggle.

Sing in choir, teach 3rd-5th grade, host or lead a small group, serve at URM Christmas store, pack a shoebox, go on one of our outreach/missions trips, take a meal to someone who is sick.

Ill. Preaching ... Rescue Mission. Convalescent home (shell-shocked vet urinated).

If you are sitting on the sidelines ... need to get in the game. Never know thrill, joy of what Spirit can do.

Conclusion:

Galatians 5:25 (NIV84) ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Four steps ... Surrender, Immersion, Humility and Discovery.

Where are you on the path? Which step do you need to take? Opportunity to take it ...

Do you need to surrender, completely? I have to do it every day ...

Immersed in this world; drowning? What will you give up? Detach, then immerse yourself in the word.

Too good or too bad for God to use. Lay down pride, stop self-deprecation keeps you from serving ...

EXCUSES ... spiritual laziness. No excuse for it. Discipline in other areas, why not spiritual.