

(Poland) Walking in the Spirit

by David Wilkerson

Walking in the Spirit means obeying the Holy Spirit's leading and saying 'yes' to God's promises, bringing clarity, protection, and joy to the people of God.

Duration: 59:05

Scripture: 1 Kings 10:7, Psalm 37:23, Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 6:33, John 16:13, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Galatians 5:16

Topics: "Walking In The Spirit"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares personal anecdotes about his experiences in Broadway and as a preacher. He talks about a show on Broadway that received terrible reviews and only lasted four days. He also shares a story about how he and a businessman were able to rent a theater despite being initially told they couldn't afford it. The preacher then reflects on his own spiritual journey and realization that there was more to Pentecost than just getting blessed and speaking in tongues. He expresses a desire for the Church to go beyond the four walls and proclaim the Gospel to a hungry nation. The sermon ends with a mention of a prophecy that the preacher will share in the next session.

Transcript

Good morning. Delighted to have you with us this morning. This is going to be a wonderful day.

Wonderful day. We received a telephone call from our church in New York City. And Tuesday night they had a few thousand people in a prayer meeting.

And they were praying for Poland. And the pastor said it was like holy thunder came into the building. The prayer sounded like thunder from heaven.

And the Holy Spirit led them to pray that God will send an awakening to Poland. Wake our churches up. And that Poland never allow apathy in the hearts of the church.

Eighteen years ago I was walking the streets of New York. I had started in New York working with gangs and drug addicts. Then I became a... I traveled all over the world as a youth evangelist.

And as you remember I was here in Poland in 1986. But my heart was always in New York City. And eighteen years ago I was walking on... right down in the middle of Times Square.

And the drug addicts were selling cocaine. And that week a basketball... a famous basketball player died of an overdose of cocaine. And it became headline news.

So on the streets, here's what the pushers were saying. Hey, I've got the good stuff. I have the stuff that killed the basketball player.

Take this stuff and it'll kill you. The commercial was death. And when I heard that something happened in my spirit.

Because death had become the ultimate fix, the ultimate high. And I began to weep. And standing right in the middle of Times Square I started calling on the Lord.

God, raise up a church in the middle of this foolishness. They're mocking you here on Broadway. All the shows are filthy.

And now they're selling death. I said, Lord, if you raise up a church right in the middle of Times Square I'll help. You sent a young preacher.

I'll help raise money. I'll hold meetings for him. The Holy Spirit said, you do it.

My wife was in the hotel. This was very late at night. I said, Lord, I'm willing.

But we live in Texas. Hundreds of miles away. In a nice house.

By a lake. How do I tell my wife we're moving back to New York City? I said, I need a miracle. I'll come.

But you have to tell my wife. I walked into the hotel room. My wife was sitting on the edge of the bed.

She said, you don't have to tell me. We're coming back to New York. The Lord had fixed her.

He had set up her heart. And the Holy Spirit made me a promise. If you go to New York City and start a church I'll give you a theater that will take your breath away.

I said, I don't have any money. He said, if you obey the Holy Spirit you'll have all the money you need. When you obey the Holy Spirit you don't have to beg for money.

If the Holy Spirit tells you to do something He's obligating Himself to meet the need. God worked a miracle. They gave us the worst theater in the city.

We rented it. It was a broken down theater. I said, Holy Spirit, you told me you'd give me a building, a theater to take my breath away.

This does not take my breath away. The Lord said, you obeyed me? I'll keep my word. After one year that theater was so full I went back to the man who owns about 15 theaters.

I said, I need a bigger theater. There was a man in the church He said, can I go with you when you talk to the theater owners? I said, yes. I didn't realize how rich he was.

When I went to the owner of all the theaters I said, I need a bigger theater. He said, one of my biggest theaters right on Broadway. But I don't have the money I'm going to open a brand new show.

We're spending \$10 million on this show. And we believe it's going to be the longest running show in the history of Broadway. And when that show finishes I'll rent it to you.

One of the most beautiful theaters in New York City. When I walked into it it took my breath away. But they're starting to open a show.

And I'm walking through this theater and they're getting ready to open a show that honors homosexuality It's about drugs and alcohol and sex I said, Holy Spirit, what's going on? You see, when you obey the Holy Spirit He expects you to wait until He answers. It's called walking in the Spirit. We talk about the Holy Ghost so much.

We talk about being filled with the Holy Ghost. Baptized with the Holy Ghost. We talk about manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Filled with the Holy Spirit. And most people here would say I have the Holy Spirit abiding in me. And the Bible says if the Holy Spirit lives in you walk in the Spirit.

Very few people understand. If I ask you what does it mean to walk in the Spirit can you explain it? I have books in my library, very thick books written about the Holy Spirit complicated theology and I don't understand what they're saying. Walking in the Spirit is so simple a child can understand it.

And it's this simple. If you believe the Holy Spirit abides in you if you believe this is the temple of the Holy Ghost then just do what He tells you to do. Believe that He has a voice.

I can't conceive, I can't believe that the Holy Spirit would live in me and not talk to me answer my questions and lead me and guide me. Very few Christians very few pastors walk in the Spirit. He said if you live in the Spirit walk in it.

Obey Him. Yield to His leading. He will guide you.

He will give you directions to go to the right or to the left and I began to walk in the Spirit. You can have the baptism of the Holy Spirit you can speak in tongues you can preach about the Holy Ghost you can talk about the power and the manifestation of the Holy Ghost and be totally ignorant about walking in the Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will not govern us He will not take His throne of exalting Christ in us and leading us.

He has been given to us to give us the knowledge of Christ but He's also given us so there's no confusion in our walk so we know where we're going and we know what to do and you have to set your heart on that walk. Years ago He had told me to go to New York City to work with gangs. That was over 45 years ago and I obeyed Him.

Now there are 500 of these drug centers around the world but it's not just hearing God occasionally lead us by His Spirit. It's getting up each morning and believing that the Holy Spirit in you if you're determined to obey Him you will do what He tells you to do and if you just stop before the day starts Holy Spirit lead me speak to me guide me and you yield your will to His will and He will speak quickly to you He will not hold back on you and He will protect you from all delusion He'll give you discernment because you will know what is of the flesh and what of the Spirit. You will know the voice of the enemy and the voice of God.

Those of you who are determined to walk in the Spirit you say, I'm going to take everything in my life to Him and when He speaks I believe what He says. Jesus said, I do nothing without the will of my Father. He said, I can do nothing without my Heavenly Father.

He said, I don't even speak a word without consulting my Father. How do we expect to do something Jesus Himself could not do? I hear people say, well God's given us a spirit of wisdom. He's given me an intelligent mind.

I should make my own intelligent decisions. That is not walking in the Spirit. People say, well we live by counsel.

We have counselors who lead us. I believe in counselors that when you take counsel from men you better take it to the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will give you a yes or no.

Of course it's to be expected that the Holy Spirit will never speak anything contrary to the Word of God. And you see, when God told me to start walking in the Spirit I said, you have to explain it to me. You have to make it so simple there's no question in my mind how to do it.

And I prayed and sought the Lord. The Holy Spirit said, I'm going to give you three words that explain the walk of the Holy Spirit. Here are the three words.

First, say yes. This is taken from the words of Paul the Apostle. All things with him are yes and amen.

Paul said, it's not no, no or yes, yes. It's always yes and amen. And God spoke to my heart.

Do you want to walk in the Spirit? Are you tired of the confusion? Because you see, walking in the Spirit ends all strife. You're no longer dependent on trying to figure things out with your own intelligence. Any child can understand.

If he can keep all the galaxies on their course, if he can keep the sun from scorching us to death, he can direct my life if I believe that and if I yield my will to him and I give him quality time to sit and listen. Why are we so formal with Christ? Why are we so formal with the Holy Spirit? We treat him as if some far-off dignitary. Rather than one who lives and abides in us.

One we can freely talk to. One we can trust the smallest detail of our lives into his hands. Just say yes to his promises.

And I said, that's so simple. Explain it to me. He said, I have to have from you a yes spirit that you look at my promises.

I will lead you. I will guide you. I abide you.

The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord. I'll never leave you, forsake you. And I started going down the promises.

Amen means let it be so. And the Bible says it is yes, yes. And amen.

Lay hold of it. And I was walking in my prayer room God said, I have to get a yes out of your soul. That every promise is mine.

And I cast my future. I cast my life on it. And then I said it again.

The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord. The spirit of the Lord shall guide you. He shall lead you into all truth.

And I said, yes! I raised my hands. I clenched my fist. Yes! That's mine.

I claim it. It's a yes that I will never take back. And He cannot lead us until we have that irreversible yes.

And yes, I have protection. I can know the voice of the Spirit because the Spirit abides in me. And the Bible said He fights against the spirit of lust.

He resists my flesh. And when my flesh is trying out for a voice, when my voice or the devil tries to pretend to be the voice of God, I believe the spirit in me is greater than the spirit of the devil. The spirit in me is greater than my flesh.

If the Bible said there's a war between the flesh and the spirit, who has so much unbelief they would think the flesh can win the battle? Now, I take you back to the day I went to the theater owner. I said, I need a bigger theater. He said, I'll make you a deal.

The week that show closes, I'll let you rent. He said, the play called Cats is the longest running show on Broadway. It's been running 11 years.

We expect this to go longer. We're putting \$10 million and we don't expect to lose that money. It was a test to faith.

We started praying. God shut it down. Make it the biggest failure.

Not the longest running show, but the shortest running show. You see, when God gives you a promise, when the Holy Spirit tells you something and you know in your heart it's God, He will test your faith to see if you will continually walk in the Spirit. I said, Lord, I believe.

This is the theater took my breath away. The Lord said, this is going to be the theater. The opening night, I was outside the theater and it took them about two months to get the show going.

And this was the opening night. Now this theater is where they mocked Jesus for two years with Superstar. Jesus Christ Superstar.

All these big stretch limousines came up. All these rich people, all the movie stars, they're trading in. And the devil's trying to speak and laugh at us.

This is the best thing they have. You will be in there for ten years. That's how you can tell the devil's voice.

It's all lies and mockery. And the devil speaks, he's trying to rush you and make you in a hurry. He won't let you wait on the Lord.

I stood outside and just prayed. They opened the show and halfway through the show a few people started coming out and a woman came across the street I was standing in front of the theater across the street praying shut it down kill the show give us the church lady comes out in a big fur coat the chauffeur opens the door to the big limousine and I went over to her and I said, excuse me how did you like the show? She did the worst show on Broadway and it's going to die. I did a dance.

That next day it got the worst reviews in the history of Broadway worst reviews in history and all the critics said it's going to die. It lasted four days.

Shortest time on Broadway the businessman and I went to see the owner said you made an offer he said yeah but you can't afford it you don't have the money what are you saying you're just a poor preacher he had no respect for me whatsoever and the man that went with me he said yes he can afford it and then he told the owner who he was and all the businesses he owned to make this story short we moved into the theater we rented it and the young man who played Jesus Christ in Superstar who was high on drugs the whole time he was a cocaine addict the whole time he played Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar right in that building God said if you're going to mock me here I'm going to turn it into a church and that's what God did and the young man who was Jesus Christ in Superstar got saved and

filled with the spirit and dedicated the building for Jesus for 18 years now that church has been filled to capacity and Sunday morning you better come an hour early to get a seat and the altars are filled with people coming to Christ by the hundreds and God kept His word and I'm here to tell you now God wants to lead us He wants to lead me He wants to lead you to a new walk this walking in the spirit all it is is a lack of faith I'm thinking now of the Queen of Sheba Bible said she had many questions many problems she heard of a man in Jerusalem by the name of Solomon a man who could answer hard questions a man could give you directions she was the queen of what would now be Yemen she decided to go to Solomon I don't know what those problems were but she said I don't care what it takes I

don't care what the sacrifice is I have to have answers my counselors can't answer it all my parliament and all my leaders cannot answer my heart cry but there's a man I don't know how she heard about him the whole world at that time knew about him so she got a caravan ready she had to go fifteen hundred miles round trip three months one way through a dangerous desert wilderness she had to take a small army with her cooks and interpreters the Bible said it was a big caravan through the hot sun week after week she finally comes to Jerusalem and it must have been quite a sight when she arrived with her caravan the Bible said she heard of his fame and of his wisdom I heard that he could answer things concerning the name of the Lord and she came to him to prove him ask of him hard questions

the Bible says when she came to Solomon she communed with him about everything that was in her heart every question about life the past and the future about nature about family every question she'd ever had in her mind Solomon answered her questions not one thing was hidden from the king he told her all she needed to know Solomon gave the queen everything she desired whatever she asked he gave to her then Jesus takes that story and he's speaking now to the religious leaders of Israel they all knew the story of the queen of Sheba they taught it in their schools they taught it in their synagogues she was a legend in Israel and Jesus said remember the queen of Sheba she came from one of the furthest parts of the earth to get direction and wisdom and counsel from Solomon and Jesus said the

queen of Sheba shall rise up on the judgment rise up against this generation and condemn it for she came from the furthest part of the earth to get direction and wisdom from Solomon and behold a greater than Solomon is here I don't want the queen of Sheba to be a witness against me and rise up on the last day and say why did you walk in confusion why did you do things without taking it to the Holy Spirit why did you do things just because you thought there were right things to do and she will say I traveled all of these miles one man answered my questions everything in my heart and it was more than I could have believed but you you had a greater than Solomon you had the spirit of wisdom who is the spirit of Christ the Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus Christ I believe in the Trinity I

believe in three personalities and the Godhead but Jesus said I will come to you and I will manifest myself to you and he says and the Bible says the Lord is that spirit the Lord is that spirit a greater Jesus said it you have a greater than Solomon why don't you come to me you don't have to go fifteen hundred miles you don't have to have donkeys and caravans filled with gold and silver you are invited to come come bring forth your strong reasons the Holy Spirit says come let us reason together come on conference with me let me lead you he invites us into his counseling chamber the one thing that is lacking is that we can't believe such a wonderful story but we simply can't believe that he can lead us and guide us and the reason many of us will not walk this kind of life the devil has

tried to bring a delusion the devil knows the joy that this kind of walk produces he knows the walking in the spirit of faith can bring the people of God into the rest that's been promised he knows that this kind of walk produces joy so he has produced a lie he has taken he has made an example he has taken those who are not yielded he has taken even ministers who are not living a holy life and they have stood before the world and before congregations and they say God told me this is what God said and we have heard such foolishness there's a book out right now somebody sent me a copy and the man said let me tell you what it's like to walk in the spirit he said when I get up in the morning I go to the cabinet and I say Holy Spirit which cereal do I eat this morning and the Holy Spirit tells

me which box to pick then I ask the Holy Spirit what color socks I should put on and what color shoe the Holy Ghost picks my tie foolishness absolute foolishness and so the average intelligent Christian the intelligent pastor we become hardened we become immune because so much foolishness I have heard so many people come to me over the years I have a word for you and now when somebody said that to me I said boy you had better be on your knees you had better heard from God you had better be walking a righteous life because I'm gonna know because I know what the will of God is and whatever you tell me it better match what I heard from God we've got people going around giving words giving prophecies who said the Holy Ghost told me but you see that's made us immune to the true walk of the

Spirit we want to throw the whole concept away because we've seen and heard so much charismatic foolishness now don't get upset about the word charismatic it means something entirely different in the United States than it does here I don't even like the word sounds like a disease like asthmatic and I'm not making fun because in the United States I'm called a charismatic we put names on these things that don't mean anything the important thing is this if I want the Holy Ghost and I want to walk in the Holy Ghost and I want a true Holy Spirit experience it has to be more than just manifestation that's why I'm here today that's why God sent me to work with drug addicts I was just a young preacher I pastored for five years in a little town I told last night about my first church this was my

second church I pastored for five years we called Pentecostal full gospel I don't even like the term full gospel that suggests that other people only have half a gospel but that's what we claim to be people came to get blessed but nobody was getting saved nobody was witnessing and I was living a comfortable life go home after church on Sunday night turn on the television and get a Coca-Cola put my feet up on the chair watch a shoot-em-up movie wild cowboys hours till I fall asleep but one day I said, Oh God is this what Pentecost is? is this the Holy Ghost where people just come get blessed talk in tongues and I can say with Paul in my devotions I talk in tongues more than all of you but I say, Oh Lord there's nothing happening we're just maintaining these people are happy I married them

and I buried them and we have wonderful fellowship we have these big meals and we eat together and we fellowship together and the world's dying and going to hell and I began to seek God sold the television set

spent months broken and weeping that's when God said there's a whole world I want to show you the Holy Spirit I want to show you what Pentecost is and if it's genuine Pentecost I don't care whether you call it Baptist Holy Ghost whatever the denomination may be if it's true Pentecost it has to work in the poorest country as well as the richest country it has to work in Mozambique like it works in New York and I saw what Pentecost is I saw how God can break hearts by the Spirit and that's when I wrote the book The Cross and Switchblade the publisher of that was a Jewish man and the

first edition didn't mention the Holy Ghost and that was the key to our program The Holy Ghost was convicting us in.

People were now out on the streets with me, walking everywhere. Young people were coming out of their churches and going with us on the streets. Alcoholics, prostitutes, drug addicts, weeping and getting saved.

The same week that my manuscript was finished, some of my advisors said, he's Jewish, don't talk about the Holy Ghost. I said, but that's the secret. The power of the Holy Spirit to lead you to drug addicts and give you the message and guide you and give you the program.

And that same week, an Episcopal priest in the United States was in the headlines. The Holy Spirit breaks out in Episcopalian churches. It told them about all kinds of manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

And the Jewish publisher called me and my associates in the office. He said, you see these magazines? They talk about this thing called the Holy Ghost. Everybody in the country is talking about this.

Aren't you one of those Holy Ghost people? I said, yes sir. He said, go back home. You give me two chapters on the Holy Ghost.

That's how it happened. I thank God for the Spirit who has made Jesus so close and so real to His church. Now He wants something more.

He wants the church of Poland to hit the streets and to get out of the closure of four walls. And to begin to proclaim the gospel to a hungry nation. Tomorrow, in the second session, I'm going to share a prophecy.

I'm not a prophet. I never claimed to be a prophet. But occasionally, I'm a watchman.

And He does speak prophetically occasionally. And I was sitting in my hotel room and the Holy Spirit just opened this up and gave me this incredible prophecy about the church in Poland. And I'll be sharing that.

But there has to be in us a hunger. To say, oh God, there has to be more than this. Let me see the Holy Spirit.

And all the majesty and the glory that God made in me. God wants to lead you to places you've never been. This country should be sending missionaries all over the world.

That has already begun. God has such great things in store. I'm going to close in just a moment.

My son will be speaking the next session. And you're going to hear from heaven. Actually, Gary has pastored longer than I have.

Including in Times Square Church in New York City. He has pioneered churches. In most places that I go, bishops come to me.

They say, Pastor Dave, we like your preaching. But we relate more to your son. That makes me feel good.

Will you stand? Music team, would you come please? I would suggest that most of you who heard me this morning have known what it's like to walk in the Spirit. You know what it means to walk in the Holy Spirit. You consult the Holy Spirit.

But you'll be tested on it. I'm going to pray for you now. Especially for those who say, Pastor David, all the voices that are in the land now, so many voices coming from all directions.

I want to know the voice of the Lord. I want to be one who walks in the Spirit. Just lift your hand while I pray.

Heavenly Father, send the Holy Spirit with revelation knowledge and cause us to say in our hearts this morning, Yes. Let it be so. Yes and Amen.

I will believe God. I will go to the Holy Spirit. I will trust the Holy Spirit.

I will open up my heart again. I will open my heart wide. Holy Spirit, come.

We claim to be possessed of the Holy Ghost. And you said if you live in the Spirit and the Spirit lives in you, then walk in the Spirit. Obey the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, we obey you. And we trust you as a guide. Let there be many who make a new commitment now in my life, in my home, and in my ministry.

I will depend more on the Holy Spirit and not on man, not on others, but on the Holy Spirit. Now raise your hands if you will, please. And thank God for the Holy Spirit who abides in you.

We are to honor the Holy Spirit. We are to worship the Holy Spirit who brings Christ to us. Lift your heart to Him right now.

Give God thanks. Speak it out. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for abiding in me.

I surrender my will. Come, govern my life. Lead my life.

I give you my will in the name of Christ our Lord. Glory be to Jesus.

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