

Galatians: Christ Has Set Us Free
Lesson 11 “Walking In The Spirit”

I. Introduction and Review - Paul wrote this book to give an revelation of grace and what the true gospel is. He wrote in a very emphatic and dogmatic and sort of in your face style.

A. Paul was writing to churches in Galatia that he founded on his first missionary journey (*Acts 13-14*). These churches were founded in approximately 48 A.D.

1. Paul wrote Galatians about 3 years after he founded these churches to counter the teaching of the Judaizers. The Judaizers had come in and begin to say that these Christians had to continue to believe in Jesus but also live by the Mosaic law to be right with God. Watered down the gospel. Paul called their teaching of mixture a different gospel and said that those that taught it were accursed.
2. The main point of the letter is we are saved by putting faith in God’s grace. We cannot add to what Jesus did for us to get saved, maintain our salvation, and/or to receive any of the blessings of God like healing, prosperity, etc.

B. Last time we met we talked about how we are to live from freedom. This means we take our focus off of sin and/or religious rituals like circumcision we must do to earn God’s favor/salvation. We are free and we are supposed to live from that place serve others out of a love relationship with Jesus. We serve through relationship, not rules.

II. Walking In The Spirit - What I’m going to teach tonight answers the question, “What about living holy that people ask when they hear someone preach the grace of God in a strong way. We are going to look at how to live holy as byproduct of a relationship with God, not keeping rules.

A. **Galatians 5:16-25**

1. **Verse 16** - This verse doesn’t say if you don’t fulfill the lust of the flesh you will live in the spirit. It’s the other way around.
 - a. This is important because many Christians believe they have to hit a certain level of holiness, get victory over personal sin, do certain religious rituals to be able to walk in the spirit.
 - b. **Acts 5:32** God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. What does this mean? **Acts 5:30-31** God gives the Spirit to those who believe in Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross, not trust their good works like the Pharisees.
 - c. **A change in mindset puts us on offense and not defense.**
2. **Verse 17** the flesh and spirit are warring against one another.
 - a. Flesh- **sarx** - means body or in context human nature apart from the Holy Spirit. It is the unrenewed mind. **Romans 8:5-9. This passage links living in the flesh to the way we think.**
 - b. The word against is **kata** which means to hold down or suppress.

3. **Verse 18** - The Holy Spirit doesn't lead us to be under the law. He will lead us supernaturally by grace that doesn't require striving.
 - a. led - ag'-o; a primary verb; properly, to lead; by implication, to bring, drive, (reflexively) go, (specially) pass (time), or (figuratively) induce:— be, bring (forth), carry, (let) go, keep, lead away, be open.
 - b. **Luke 22:54, Luke 23:1** - The leading of God comes out of relationship with Jesus, not our great striving.
4. **Verses 19-21** These verses describe the works of the flesh and say those who practice such will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - a. Does this mean people who do these things but have professed Jesus as Lord won't go to heaven? It is possible because people who live in habitual sin can harden their hearts and renounce their faith.
 - b. This also means that believers who don't deny Jesus but live after the flesh will miss part of their inheritance.
 - i. Joseph - God promised him that he would be a key leader and his family would depend on him. What if he would have gotten into sexual sin with Potiphar's wife.
 - ii. What about David. He's in heaven but he got into sexual sin and God told him the consequence would be the sword would never depart from his house and his son slept with his wives in daylight. Did David miss some of his inheritance?
5. **Verses 22-24** Manifesting the fruit of the spirit comes from abiding in Christ (my thoughts affections). It's a work of God's spirit, not my striving. This causes me to receive my inheritance salvation and blessings.
 - a. Example - Jesus was moved with compassion and this caused Him to multiply the loaves and fishes. Blessed (thankful) for what He had and it multiplied. Did Jesus receive His inheritance (people)?
 - b. Walking in character will help us walk in greater power.
6. **Verse 24** This passage is what Paul means when he says "I die daily." Will tell our flesh, "No."
7. **Verse 25** Walking in the spirit means we live out what has been done on the inside. We do this by simply trusting in Jesus. It's not our great striving or willpower. It comes from abiding in Him and receiving His thoughts and affections. From this position we are led "carried forth" by grace.

III. Conclusion - Tonight we talked about some hard things. We looked at how we are to live life because of the grace of God. We are called to bear fruit the same way a woman bears children. It doesn't come by striving, it comes by intimacy.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer