

THE BATTLE WITHIN *Galatians 5:13–26*

Big Idea: Jesus has set us free and given us His Spirit. The flesh still fights, but it no longer owns us. As we keep in step with the Spirit, He transforms us and produces the life of Jesus in us.

1. THERE IS STILL A BATTLE *Galatians 5:16–18*

Even after coming to Jesus, we still experience the pull of the flesh. But we have not been left to fight alone. The Spirit of God lives in us, and sin is no longer our master.

Key Scriptures

- Galatians 5:16–18
- Romans 8:12–14

Remember

- The flesh and the Spirit are not equal powers.
- The flesh still fights, but it doesn't own me.
- I am not obligated to obey the flesh.
- Temptation does not mean I have to surrender.
- The Spirit of God lives in me.

Ask Yourself

- Where do I feel the battle between the flesh and the Spirit most clearly right now?
- What have I been treating as inevitable that the Spirit is giving me power to resist?

The flesh has been dethroned. It just hasn't disappeared yet.

2. THE BATTLE PRODUCES VISIBLE EVIDENCE *Galatians 5:19–23*

Whatever is leading our lives will eventually become visible. The works of the flesh reveal what happens when we continually surrender to our old desires, while the fruit of the Spirit reveals His transforming work within us.

Key Scriptures

- Galatians 5:19–23
- Luke 6:43–45

Remember

- Whatever is leading my life will eventually show up in my life.
- Holiness is deeply relational.
- Fruit isn't something I manufacture; it's something the Spirit grows.
- Spiritual growth isn't about perfection, but there should be evidence of transformation.
- The Spirit of God does not move into my life and do nothing.

Ask Yourself

- Is there evidence that the Spirit is changing me?
- Am I becoming more like Jesus?
- What does the fruit of my life reveal about what I have been feeding?

The fruit shows the roots.

3. HOW DO WE LIVE THIS? *Galatians 5:24–26*

Walking by the Spirit is a daily life of dependence and surrender. We cultivate our relationship with Jesus, put to death what feeds the flesh, and keep our eyes on Christ instead of comparing our walk with someone else's.

FEED THE RELATIONSHIP *John 15:4–5 • Colossians 3:1–4*

- Remain in Jesus.
- Seek what is above.
- Set your mind on Him.
- Pray. Open His Word. Worship. Obey. Confess. Listen.
- Don't just stare at the fruit. Feed the relationship.

STARVE THE FLESH *Galatians 5:24 • Colossians 3:5–10*

- Stop feeding what Jesus died to free you from.
- Remove what needs to be removed.
- Set the boundary.
- Confess what needs to be confessed.
- Ask for help when you need it.

Why do I keep feeding something Jesus died to free me from?

STOP LOOKING SIDEWAYS *Galatians 5:25–26 • Hebrews 12:1–2 • John 21:22*

- Comparison leads toward pride or envy.
- Other people were never meant to be my standard. Jesus is.
- Don't spend your life inspecting someone else's fruit while ignoring what the Spirit wants to grow in you.
- My responsibility isn't to keep pace with someone else's walk. My responsibility is to keep in step with the Spirit.

Ask Yourself

- What is the Spirit asking me to surrender?
- What am I feeding that needs to be starved?
- Where is He asking me to follow Him more closely?

Feed the relationship. Starve the flesh. Stop looking sideways. Keep in step with the Spirit.