

Galatians

Free from Trying to be Good Enough

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

"It's God's kindness to you that drives you to repentance." Romans 2:4

Living the Christian life is not about trying; it is about relying.

Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Galatians 3:3

Signs that you are slipping into the "try harder" approach to living the Christian life:

- You grow frustrated.

- You feel tired.

"They crush people with unbearable religious demands. They tie heavy loads and put them on people's shoulders." Matthew 23:4

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

- You start pretending.

- You end up conceited or defeated.

How do we live a life of holiness?

- We realize the reality of our sinful nature.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

- We allow the Holy Spirit guide our lives.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

Galatians 5:16-17

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

“I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?” Galatians 3:2

“When you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit.” Ephesians 1:13

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:25

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18