



The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

BIBLE JOURNEY: GALATIANS – FAITH, LIFE AND THE SPIRIT

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Author and Audience: Paul to the Gentiles Acts 22:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ “When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr^[a] Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Looking Back – Moving Forward

► Overview of Galatians (Background)

- Tension in the Text:

-Two questions:

- 1). *Are people justified by faith in Christ? Earned by following the rules(Law)?*
- 2). *If people are justified by faith in Christ, how should they live their lives?*

-Paul and Peter (Gal. 2:11)

-Judaizers: Perverted “gospel”

-Truth and Love

► Works-Righteousness as Slavery

- Primary Issue: Proving Christianity by circumcision (the law)...something that is external, connected to the law
- Belief credited as righteousness – Abraham (Gen. 15:6 and Galatians 3:6-9)
- Free in Christ by Faith

Freedom in Christ: Galatians 5: 1-6

5 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.

2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. **3** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **4** You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **5** For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Freedom in Christ: Galatians 5:7-12

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

What About The Law?

“After all of the negative things that Paul seemed to be saying about the law, he was not trying to remove it from the lives of Believers.”

-Dr. Nicole Martin

Your Turn: Circle the word that opposes the Spirit

▶ Galatians 3:2

"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 4:6-7

⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,^[a] Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

▶ Galatians 5:16 -17

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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^[a] you want.

▶ Galatians 5:18

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Opposition to the Spirit

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is in some ways the definition and goal of Christian life. Overcoming any resistance to the Spirit will be crucial to the Galatians as they attempt to live by and in the Spirit that Christ has given.

See the table below showing the Galatians passages with the things that Paul identifies in opposition with the Spirit.

Passage	Opposition
Galatians 3:2	Works
Galatians 4:6-7	Slavery
Galatians 5:16-17	Flesh
Galatians 5:18	Law



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**Video 1:
(Lesson 4)**

In | Fruit of the Spirit & The Law

The Acts of Flesh vs. The Fruit Spirit

▶ Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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 5:22-26 (NIV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

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**Video 2:
(Lesson 4)**

Behind | Lessons from the Vine

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**Video 3:
(Lesson 4)**

In Front | Fruitful Christian Living

Closing Question:

Briefly answer the question that ended the last video:

4. Is your religion the dead kind that looks nice, or is it the live kind that may be less showy or exciting but shows signs of growth and fruitfulness? What evidence can you give that your life's growing and fruitful (even, or especially, evidence that is internal rather than merely external behavior)?