

March 18: Walking in True Freedom

Overview: This study explores **Mark 1:9-13 & Galatians 5:13-26**, examining what true Christian freedom looks like and how the Holy Spirit leads us to transformation.

Discussion Questions

READ Mark 1:9-13

1. **What strikes you most about Jesus' baptism scene?** How does the Father's affirmation ("You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased") relate to Jesus' ability to resist temptation?
2. **In the wilderness, Jesus was essentially alone with unlimited power.** What does it reveal about His character that He chose restraint rather than indulgence?

READ Galatians 5:13-26

3. **Look at Galatians 5:13.** How could total freedom lead to slavery if we use it "to indulge the flesh"?
4. **Compare the "acts of the flesh" (vv. 19-21) with the "fruit of the Spirit" (vv. 22-23).** What patterns do you notice? How do acts of the flesh bite & devour while the fruit of the Spirit builds up?
5. **"Have you ever disliked the person you were becoming because of the choices you were making?"**
 - How did you recognize this was happening? What changed?
6. **The fruit of the Spirit is complementary rather than separate.** How have you experienced growth in one area leading to growth in another? Ex. growing in self-control leads to peace; faithfulness to joy, etc.
7. **The Spirit produces His fruit in us—it's not ours, but God shares it with us.** How does this shift your perspective on spiritual growth? Does it relieve pressure or create different expectations?
8. **How do you keep in step with the Spirit?"** What practical habits or decisions help you stay with God's will; act on what is right & good; avoid biting, devouring others.

Practical Applications for the Week

1. **Daily Prayer Focus:** Pray about the fruit of the Spirit in you, asking God to produce it in you
2. **Strategic Choice:** Identify a choice you can make to position yourself for the Spirit's work (avoiding a tempting situation, attending church, spending time with encouraging believers,)
3. **Honest Assessment:** Invite the Spirit to lead you to a turning point in areas lacking the Spirit's fruit
4. **Gratitude Practice:** Identify ways you've seen the Spirit's fruit in your life or someone else's life

Key Takeaways

1. **True Freedom vs. World's Freedom**
 - **World's definition:** More power + more choices = more freedom
 - **Christian freedom:** Freedom to do anything yet power to do what's right
 - Jesus had all power and all options in the wilderness, yet chose God's will
2. **We Must Serve Something**
 - We can't serve two masters. Something will run our lives—either God or sin
 - Jesus was a "slave to righteousness," which opened doors for ministry
3. **The Fruit of the Spirit**
 - **Acts of the flesh** (plural): work against each other, cause discord
 - **Fruit of the Spirit** (singular): work together, complement each other
 - When God starts working on one area, He doesn't leave it undone—He keeps going