

## Galatians Part 5: Living By The Spirit

*(Galatians 5:1-6 NIV) 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. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised (works based), Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

### Flesh vs. Spirit

*(Galatians 5:13-18 NIV) You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*(Galatians 5:19-21 NIV) 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.*

**The flesh produces:** ✓ Bondage    ✓ Doubt    ✓ Religion    ✓ Legalism

**The Spirit produces:** ✓ Freedom    ✓ Faith    ✓ Relationship    ✓ Grace

### Living by the Spirit

*(Galatians 5:22-26 NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

### **1. Follow Godly passions.**

*(Galatians 5:17 NLT) The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires.*

*(Galatians 5:24 NIV) Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

### **2. Focus on receiving and giving grace.**

*(Galatians 5:26 NIV) "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."*

*(Galatians 6:1 NIV) "Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."*

### **3. Flow with good character.**

*(Galatians 5:18, 22-23 NIV) The acts of the flesh are obvious... "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."*

*(Matthew 7:17-18 NIV) Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.*

### **4. Find the pleasure of the Spirit.**

*(Galatians 6:8 NIV) "Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."*

*(Ephesians 5:10 NIV) Find out what pleases the Lord.*

**I am never alone. The Spirit is always with me.**