

GALATIANS

CHOOSING FREEDOM EVERY DAY

Part 2

Big Idea

Last week we discussed our need to live in the Tree of Life. But many of us have a difficult time remaining in the Tree of Life on a consistent basis. This is the only way to live in freedom! Life is often hard, and when our circumstances become difficult, we tend to swing on the vine from the Tree of Life to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. In order to keep our flesh at bay and remain in the Tree of Life, we have to remember that we are called to die to ourselves and live a crucified life. In our flesh, we want situations to change, but God wants to change *us* because He knows that the more we die to self, the more we will live in His Freedom. In order to live a crucified life, we must crucify self, the flesh and the world by embracing humility, making the daily choice to live in the Tree of Life, and separating ourselves from the world. This is our path to truly living in freedom every day.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." Matthew 16:25

Discussion Questions

- Think about this past week. Did you live in the Tree of Life most days? What are some areas that you can live in the Tree of Life this week?
- Which areas of the world (movies, music, relationships, etc.) can you filter out of your life to allow for more freedom?
- What daily choices will you make this week to allow more of Jesus and less of you?

Prayer Focus

Pray for God to empower you to choose the Tree of Life daily. Ask Him for the strength to say no to your self, your flesh and the world. Renew your commitment to living a crucified life and let God know that you desire for Him to live through you. Pray, "More of you, Jesus. Less of me."

Next Step

Commit to creating boundaries and filters this week that will help you stay separate from the world. Find an accountability partner who will help you stick to your commitments, and make plans to talk/meet regularly. Foster a spirit of humility by giving your life to Christ again every morning and reminding yourself that you are living for God.

Leader Tip

Identify those in your group who have leadership potential. Invite them to join the team at Next Steps, held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sunday of the month immediately following our 10:30 AM Service.