



BE FREE

A STUDY IN GALATIANS

BE FREE

DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 5

Sit somewhere that you can see or hear birds, take a deep breath and read Galatians chapter 5.

One of the challenges Paul was facing from the Judaizers was their concern for right living. Their argument went something like this: if we teach people to no longer observe the Torah, how will they live holy lives? If the Gentiles do not have the boundaries of the Law, what will keep them from sin?

Although the Judaizers wanted to see people living godly lives, they were missing the key component to holy living — holiness doesn't come from adherence to the law, but through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19 says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." That seems pretty clear. Jesus didn't set us free so that we could find our way back into slavery. That would be a bit like a bird in an open cage returning to the cage. The bird was created to fly, but instead it sits in a rusty cage and refuses to trust the wind to guide it to wide open freedom. We can be set free! Why, in the world, would you stay in the cage? You were born to fly!

God is not asking us to navigate our freedom by ourselves. God gives us the wind of the Spirit to guide us in our quest. The Holy Spirit helps us navigate our new life of freedom. The Spirit enables us to fulfill the law of love and gives us the strength to walk in freedom and love. The person who is led by the Spirit will do what is right freely, and not by the compulsion of the law.

Read verses 22 and 23 again. This is the fruit of the Spirit—Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are the fruit of a free life. This is what freedom looks like. As a Christian, the fruit freely grows in your life. It builds your character. Fruit simply comes from abiding in Christ. It's more about depending than doing. The fruit serves as a filter for our thoughts, intentions, and actions.

Am I walking in freedom or am I staying in the cage? Am I trying to earn my relationship with God by keeping rules? Or are my thoughts and actions demonstrating love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Staying in sync with the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to walk in freedom. Walk free! Fly free!

Is there a cage that Christ has opened that you keep going back to? What is it going to take for you to fly free?

What fruit is most evident in your life? What is a fruit that needs to grow?
