



## WEEK 5 DEVOTIONAL

June 18, 2023

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### RECEIVE

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Slowly. Prayerfully, read and/or listen to Galatians 5:1–26 twice. Before and after each reading, pray asking the Spirit of Christ to guide you into knowing and living what you are receiving from the Scriptures. Consider, what does God want you to reflect on and learn from?

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### REFLECT

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1. Have you ever tried to justify yourself by following unnecessary rules and regulations? What are the dangers of doing this? What steps can you take to keep your focus on Christ?
2. What causes some people to start well, but finish poorly in matters of faith? List 3 things which may hinder new believers from running their race well.
3. How do some Christians abuse their freedom in Christ? How can you be more intentional about serving the family of God in love?
4. Why do Christians tend to excuse the behavior of their old nature? What acts of sinful nature tend to entangle you?
5. What happens to a Christian who is under the control of the Holy Spirit? What is the result of yielding to the Spirit? How do the fruit of the Spirit affect all areas of a Believer's life? How is a Christian empowered to live by the Spirit?

6. How do you see the character of the Holy Spirit growing in your life?

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## RESPOND

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1. What can you do this week to nurture the character of the Holy Spirit in your life? How can you and the Spirit get rid of anything hindering your growth? What do you want to do the next time you encounter conceit or envy in your life?

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## RESOURCES

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**The Bible Project** | [Introduction to Galatians](#)

Dive deeper into the Scriptures during our weekly Sunday Discipleship class at 10:30 a.m. at our Oak Brook Campus.

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## SCRIPTURE

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**Galatians 5:1–26** | New International Version

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, 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.

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 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. 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. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

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.