

No Other Gospel Galatians 5:16-26

“¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Galatians 5:16–26)

INTRODUCTION:

In our journey through Galatians, Paul has taught that the Gospel of Jesus Christ sets believers free from slavery to:

1. Sin
2. Legalism of Law observance

As a recap, how does faith in Jesus Christ set us free from these things listed above?

From our understanding of this passage (Galatians 5), what are we set free in Christ *to do*? (5:1, 13-15,16)?

DISCUSS:

1. What instruction does Paul give in 5:16 to help believers not to succumb to the *false freedom* of following the “desires of the flesh”? Why would giving in to the “desires of the flesh” (doing whatever I want) be seen as going back to slavery?

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2. **Once we come to faith in Christ, are we automatically able to “walk by the Spirit”? According to 5:16-17, what should we expect walking by the Spirit to be like? What are some challenges we should be aware of?**

3. **How do the differences between the lists of “desires of the flesh” and “fruit of the Spirit” (5:17-23) help us to know whether we are seeking to walk by the Spirit?**
[Note: The Christian life is a journey. While we desire to experience victory over sin and growth in the fruit of the Spirit, we must also recognise that growing conviction of sin and awareness of works of the flesh, can also be signs of the Spirit’s work in our lives]

4. **What encouragement does this passage offer us, to help us know that as Christians, we can indeed change for the better, experiencing victory over sin and the flesh, and growing in the Spirit? [See 5:18, 5:24]**

RESPOND & PRAY:

5. **What steps can you take to actively pursue change in your life, as you seek to turn from sin and grow in walking by the Spirit? [See 5:22-26]**