

The Mt. Zion Church Bible Study
Freedom Series
Lesson 6: The Fruit of Freedom



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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: This culminating lesson in the “Freedom” series is a reminder that we are freed in order to do good works (Ephesians 2: 10). Throughout the lessons on freedom, we have discussed various aspects of the impact of freedom. Primarily, we have studied how freedom, through faith, was God’s intent from the fall of mankind. However, the freedom we enjoy requires an appropriate behavioral response. As new creations in Christ, we are to exhibit characteristics of the family we have been born into. The characteristics of Christ are described as fruit in our passage for the current study. We are free in order to bear (exhibit) fruit (behaviors) that align with the expectations of God, the example of Jesus, and the effect of the Holy Spirit. The writer to Galatians concludes this idea of fruit bearing by calling it the “walk” we are to have.



Reading for Current Lesson

Galatians 5: 25

I. The Expectation of Our Walk

Paul begins this verse with the word **Since**. The King James Version reads **If**. Paul’s implication relates to the relationship we have chosen. Verse 25 is a concluding thought referencing the previous examples of the difference between the Fleshly Life vs. The Spiritual Life. In the chart below, give some examples of how the two lives differ.

Fleshly Life does...	Spiritual Life does...

When you and I express behaviors that do not align with a Spirit led life, how do you think that impacts you? How does it impact others?

Not living a Spirit led life impacts me by....

Not living a Spirit led life impacts others by...

Paul was considering these ideas when he wrote verse 25. The issue he is concerned with is that freedom from the Law (previous lessons' explanation) moves a believer to display more than just the title "Christian." The freedom we have should move us to become copies of Jesus. The clue is in the word, Christian. It means Christ-like. Thus, as we accept freedom from the punishment of sin, control of the Law, and a life dedicated to our fleshly desires, we "enslave" ourselves (by choice) to Christ. However, that "enslavement" becomes adoption and we become children of God (Galatians 4: 5-7).

This set of ideas leads Paul to write "Since we are living [through] the Spirit...." If he were writing this verse a question, he would have written "Are you a Spirit led person? If so, act like it."

The bigger issue is that we have an expectation on our lives to present to the world a consistent picture of who we are and whom we claim as lord of our lives. The

challenge is to conform daily to the direction of the Holy Spirit and to reject the world's views of living. 2 Corinthians 5: 17 teaches us that we are new creations, but if you do not match that idea with an understanding of what that new creation looks like we will revert back to our fleshly behaviors. 1 Peter 1: 14-15 tells us what the new creation looks like; holiness.

II. The Controller of Our Walk

It would almost seem obvious that the controller of our walk is the Holy Spirit. The verse makes it clear. However, we rarely study who the Holy Spirit is and what role He plays in the personality of God. First, the Holy Spirit is God. It is the aspect of God that functions by living inside of each believer. God, Jehovah. The God we serve is one God who expresses Himself in three ways. God the Father. God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.

The following chart gives a few examples of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Work of Holy Spirit	Scriptural Basis
Lives in Believers	1 Corinthians 3: 16
Teaches and reminds us of Jesus' teachings	John 14: 26
Reveals the mind of God to believers	1 Corinthians 2: 10-11
Empowers believers	Act 1: 8
Guides believers in the truths of God	John 16: 13-15
Gives Spiritual gifts to believers	1 Corinthians 12: 7-11
Proves God's ownership of us (seals us)	Ephesians 1: 13

These works and others are examples of what you and I have been given as a gift when we accept Jesus as Lord. God does not want us to be without guidance. Thus, He sent Himself in the form of the Holy Spirit to guide our behavior, thoughts, attitudes, etc. As we submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit we bear fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-24) and we begin to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5: 25).

- Write an example of how you have seen the Holy Spirit accomplishing His work in your life?

III. The Exactness of Our Walk

Galatians 5: 25 ends with the phrase “let us also walk in the Spirit.” The phrase is much more than the idea of walking with the Spirit of God. It implies a relationship. The idea is that a person is walking in line or in a row with another person similar to the way soldiers walk in rows. For the people of Paul’s day, they would have understood this concept and would have also seen it as a way to express that the person walking in step with the Holy Spirit is trying to mirror the Holy Spirit. This is accomplished through continuous effort. This continuous effort for Christians is called discipleship. Discipleship indicates that we are learners and imitators of Christ.

Galatians 5 is a chapter which pushes us to be more like Christ. Paul expresses our freedom but also directs followers of Christ to understand what freedom really means. Our freedom from sin, the Law, unnecessary customs, and the power of the flesh allows each of us to live as copies of Jesus. We are to become increasingly like Christ daily and the Holy Spirit helps each of us to accomplish that goal.

Conclusion: Choose one area of growth mentioned in Galatians 5: 19-21. You have 15 options which are not examples of walking in the Spirit. Which are you going to work on this week?

Prayer: God help us to become more like you daily! We want to be mirror images of your son Jesus in our walk. Let us accept the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we grow. Amen