

## Step By Step

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### Week 1: Intro (Galatians 5)

- Galatians is thought to be, by some theologians, Paul's first letter that he ever wrote to a church
  - Paul felt the need to write this letter because after all of the work and time he had put in to help start and grow this church, it was now on the verge of all being undone
  - The church had been infiltrated by false teachers, who were teaching them that if they really wanted to be God's people, they would have to perform certain aspects of the Jewish Law
  - Which is completely anti-Gospel because that is a works based salvation, not a faith-based, grace-based salvation.
  - Jesus fulfilled the law so that we would no longer have to be bound by the law
- But this is a common misconception about Christianity
    - Many see Christianity as a religious system that declares if you are to be accepted, you have to live up to a certain standard
    - However, the basis of Christianity is that we could not live up to the standard, so the Standard Himself, became a Man, in the Person of Jesus, and through His death and resurrection, He bridged the gap between our shortcomings and God's Standard.
    - So that even though there is nothing we can do to truly live up to the standard, we can still be accepted before God and have a relationship with Him, because of what Jesus did for us.
  - And it is so interesting how we can be just like these Galatians
    - Where whenever we come to faith, there is no questioning that we have a complete dependence on God. We put ourselves completely in His Hands

Sunday, April 16, 2023

- But then the longer we're in this faith, the more we are tempted to lose that dependence on God and try and take matters into our own hands
- We feel like now that we're mature believers, we now have to perform a certain way, and it's not necessarily to gain or maintain the favor of God...but rather so that we would be held in higher esteem in the eyes of other Christians
- And that is what we refer to as legalism
  - Legalism is when we turn our faith into a social competition while covering it in Spiritual language
  - It's when we keep track of church attendance, not out of care for someone else, but rather so that we can feel better about ourselves
  - It's when we begin to believe that God is more proud of us than others because of all that we do
- It's when we make worship style more about personal preference, rather than actually worshipping
- It's when we as parents unhealthily micro manage our children, not out of care for their spiritual well-being, but really because we're scared they might embarrass us
- And I know many people will define legalism as the attempt to gain God's approval through works...but I really believe that if we ever fall into legalism, the root of it is not the attempt to gain the favor of God, but the attempt to gain the favor of other people
- And this is what the Galatians are falling in to. Their faith is becoming less about what God has done for them, and more about what they can do, (Now they would say, what they could do for God), but it's not really for God. It's what they can do for the approval or for the envy of others.
- ***"You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell on you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was***

***publicly portrayed as crucified? I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by the Spirit, are you now finishing by the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing—if in fact it was for nothing?” -Galatians 3:1-4 (CSB)***

- Paul is saying, if we come to faith by believing, it is foolish to think that we can maintain our faith by our works.
- The only way to grow in our faith is to keep that dependence on God that we had at the beginning.
  - Why do you think that Jesus said, our goal should be to have the faith of a child??
- The goal of our faith should not be to have the best performance or record, the goal of our faith should be to recognize our need for God every single day.

- And the more you recognize your need, the better you will be able to live out this spiritual life, and the better you will be to other people
- Paul says in chapter 5 verse 6, “What matters most is faith working through love.”
- If you look down in verse 13, he says, ***“For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don’t use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.” -Galatians 5: 13-14 (CSB)***
- And then if you skip down to verse 25, ***“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” Galatians 5:25-26 (CSB)***
- You see legalism is a byproduct of becoming conceited, its goal is to provoke one another, and its result is the envying of one another.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

- But the antidote to legalism, is to Keep in Step with the Spirit
- PRAY
- Do you ever have those times where you have a melody in your head but you can't really remember the lyrics to a song? Or maybe you're watching a tv show and you see an actor and think, "Man, what else has that person been in??"
- That happens to me all of the time, and I don't know if you're like me, but I'm not going to be able to sleep until I figure it out! And when you find yourself in that predicament, what do you do? You google it right?? It's amazing right?? We have access to be able to find the answers we're looking for within seconds!
- I remember one time a few months back, Rachel and I were driving somewhere and a song came on through the car and it was a cover song. And I asked Rach, "Man, who originally sang this song?" She said, "Ohhhh man, it's right on the tip of my mind."
- A few minutes go by, I've been left hanging, and I say, "Well, did you look it up??" She said, "No." I say, "Well, are you going to?" She said, "Nah, it doesn't bother me that much."
- About another 5 minutes go by, and I couldn't let it go, I say, "HOW CAN IT NOT BOTHER YOU!?"
- Now that was very hypocritical of me because there are other times, for me, where the answer is right there, but I can't quite get it. But I refuse to look it up, I don't let anyone else look it up, because I gotta figure it out on my own.
- Now I have the resources to find the answer I'm looking for within seconds, but I refuse to do it because I want the satisfaction of solving it in my own power.
- But so often that's just what we do in our spiritual lives. We have access to all of the resources that we need to live out this spiritual life, but we would rather try it on our own rather than access the power of the Holy Spirit.

- That's why Paul says in verse 16, ***"I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh."*** -Galatians 5:16 (CSB)
- Now, before we go any further, I think we should answer the obvious question....who is the Spirit?
- I think this is important for us to cover because the Holy Spirit is definitely the most controversial Person of the Trinity.
- Dr. Tony Evans says, ***"The Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood, marginalized, misused, and under appreciated member of the Trinity. On one hand, He's ignored, on the other hand, He's illegitimately sensationalized. Both extremes cancel or limit His work in and through God's people."***- Dr. Tony Evans
- So I don't think we are going to be able to answer fully all of the aspect of who the Holy Spirit is.
- But there are 3 aspects of who He is that we're going to work through today.
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR DEFENSE, HE IS OUR SPIRITUAL IDENTIFICATION, AND HE IS OUR POWER SOURCE
- But coming off of the heels of our series through John, let's go back for a moment and look at what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit when He was introducing Him to the disciples.
- I love the picture we get in John chapter 20, after the resurrection, and Jesus appears to the disciples, it says, ***"And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*** -John 20:22 (ESV)
- Now, Jesus had to be so intentional with the gesture here. Because where else do we God breathing upon someone?
- In Genesis 2, we see at creation, ***"Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the***

***breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” -Genesis 2:7 (ESV)***

- You see, Adam was formed, he was created, but he was not living until God breathed the breath of life into him.
  - But since then sin entered into the world and suffocated the breath of life out of mankind... but now, we see Jesus breathing the Breath of Life back into us
  - That’s why Paul says in Romans 8, ***“The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.” -Romans 8:11 (ESV)***
- Now another question that has some controversy around it, is “When do we received the Holy Spirit?”
  - When does God breathe the Holy Spirit into us??

- Well that question is answered very plainly in the book of Ephesians.
- ***“You also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed.” -Ephesians 1:13 (CSB)***
- The moment we come to faith, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- There is no believer in this room that has any greater measure of the Holy Spirit than any other.
- There is no believer that is more anointed than another...that’s old covenant theology, we’re in the New Covenant now where the Spirit has been poured out on all flesh
- However, there are many believers that are carriers of the Holy Spirit, but live as if they do not have the Spirit.
  - There is a big difference between having the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit
  - CHOCOLATE MILK

Sunday, April 16, 2023

- When you're making chocolate milk, and you pour the chocolate into the milk, as soon as the chocolate is poured in, it is now, in fact, by definition, chocolate milk. However it does not look like chocolate milk, it does not taste like chocolate milk.
  - It's not until the chocolate is stirred up, that it actually fills the milk and gives it the look that it is supposed to have, the taste that it's supposed to have, the full experience that it is supposed to have.
  - Now what's going to happen over time, if we just allow this chocolate milk to sit. Eventually the chocolate is going to settle at the bottom again and it won't look like to taste like chocolate milk any more.
- Paul told Timothy, "I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you."
- We see an example of this in acts chapter 4 whenever Peter and John had returned from being arrested and beaten for preaching in the Name of Jesus, it says that Peter and

John gathered together with their friends, lifted their voices together to God and verse 31 says, ***"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness."***

***-Acts 4:31 (ESV)***

- Now, this group already had the Holy Spirit, but they were intentional about crying out to the Lord together and as a result they were filled the Spirit
- The writer of Hebrews encourages us to follow this example when he writes, ***"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*** -Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV)
- This is why church is so important, because this is a time where we intentionally worship

together, pray together, open the Word together so it can be a time where the Spirit is stirred up within us.

- However it's hard to do that whenever we don't have a good working knowledge of who the Holy Spirit is and what He wants to do in and through us.
- This is why Paul tells the Galatians that they need to intentionally, once again, walk by the Spirit.
- He says, ***"I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh."*** -Galatians 5:16 (CSB)
- He shows us a couple of things here. He doesn't tell us to be CARRIED by the Spirit, He says, WALK by the Spirit...there is intentionality on our part that needs to happen
- And he also introduces us to this war that goes on between the Spirit and the Flesh

- Because even though we have the Holy Spirit, there is still a tension between the Spirit and our original sin nature.
- And this is a battle that never goes away on this side of eternity
- And this is why we so desperately need the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Which is actually what Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as in John 14 when He first introduces His Disciples to the Spirit
- Jesus tells them, ***"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*** -John 14:26 (ESV)
- Now Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a Helper, or Advocate, or Comforter in some translations, but all of those are translated from the greek work:
- **PARAKLĒTOS: "One who pleads another's cause before a judge."**



- So in this role of the Holy Spirit, Jesus almost gives the picture of Him being our defense lawyer

#### - THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR DEFENSE

- In chapter 16 He says He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgement
- So it's like the court room is set. The Holy Spirit, as our defender, brings up the conviction we are accused of. Sin. Of which we are guilty. But then He pleads the righteousness of Jesus, and how His work on the cross has covered the conviction we are accused of.
- And then gives us spiritual insight into the difference between the judgment that we deserved and the judgment that we received.
- We deserved the judgment of death. But instead we received the judgement of Freedom, because of the righteousness of Jesus.

- Paul says in chapter 3, "**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming the curse for us,**" -Galatians 3:13 (CSB)

- *The Word Redeem means to pay the price for the freedom of another*

- And whenever Satan, the "ruler of this world" as he is referred to as in verse 11, the father of lies, tries to make us think we are still in bondage, when he tries to place judgment or condemnation on us, the Spirit as our Advocate, Helper, and Defense is there to remind us, and him, that we are actually free, and that the judgment of death is actually reserved for him
- Because Jesus has crushed the head of the serpent, He has made the enemy His footstool, and He has overcome the world!
- That's the victory and the freedom we are invited into!

Sunday, April 16, 2023

- And Paul tells us, “For Freedom, you have been set free.”
- And The Holy Spirit is here to continually come to our defense. Whenever we start to buy into the lies, He’s there to remind us that we’ve been set free, that we have been covered in the righteousness of Jesus, and to remind us of who we are now.
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR SPIRITUAL IDENTIFICATION**
- Not only are we guilty people set free, but we were set free to live a brand new life.
  - We have new identity, we have new status, we have a new family
  - ***“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by Whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,” - Romans 8:15-16 (ESV)***
- You are not a slave you are a Son of God
- You are not an outcast, you are a Daughter of the King
- And you get to claim that identity whenever you get in trouble
  - I got pulled over 9 times before I got my first ticket. And I got my first ticket at 18 so this was not spread over a long period of time. But the reason why I got off 8 times prior is because of two things
  - 1. I was respectful, 2. I would name drop my dad.
  - Because most of the times I was pulled over was on Military bases and I would mention that my dad was Chaplain Hall and they would say, “Ahhhh, well you don’t have any record of this happening before so be more careful.”
  - Little did they know I didn’t have a record because 7 other guys said the same thing
- But my Father’s name carried weight!

- AND SO DOES YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S NAME!
  - When life starts to shake you up, you can say, "Nope, My Father is Almighty God"
  - When you get backed into a corner, you can say, "Nope! My Father is Jehovah Jirah—He will provide everything that I need!"
  - When temptation starts to close in on you, you can say, "Uh, Uh...My Father is the King of the Universe! I don't have to sink back to that level"
- This is why Paul is so adamant about walking in the Spirit and the new Spiritual identity we have been given...he goes on to say in verse 17, ***"For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want."*** -Galatians 5:17 (CSB)
- Now, I've gotten this question a few times...if I am saved, and if I have the Holy Spirit, the

same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead within me, why do I still struggle with sin?? And if I do sin, does that mean I'm not really saved??

- Now let me explain it this way, how many of you are dog people??
- I'm a dog person, I love dogs, we have a 4 year old Golden doodle and I love her to death. However, I will not let that dog lick me, I don't want any dogs licking me. Why? Because dogs are nasty! I have literally seen my dog eat her own throw up!
  - Now I don't wanna hear about what sort of medicines or healing agents that dogs tongues have, I can't unsee that!
- ***"Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly."*** -Proverbs 26:11 (ESV)
  - When we come to faith and receive the Holy Spirit, we are given a new identity and a completely new system

- “If anyone is in Christ, they are a New Creation”
- A person vomits, when there is something within them that their system rejects and must discharge of
- Therefore this sin-nature that we had been defined and consumed by before the grace, and love, and mercy of Jesus Christ invaded our lives... is now rejected by our new system that is led by the Spirit
- But for one reason or another, in our weak human state, that which our system has rejected, starts to look appetizing
- In our minds we know, that its disgusting, its unethical, its not even natural anymore....but in the weakness of my flesh, I can be living in my new nature as a child of God and still be drawn to my old sin. Which is as bond bogging as a dog returning to its vomit!!
- And thats exactly what our sin is! Its vomit, puke, throw up, whatever you wanna call it! It has no value, it is rejected by our new system, but we still battle this weakness of returning to it every once in a while
- Now Paul gives us a list of things like this in verse 19, when he writes,
- **“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things —as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 (CSB)**
- Now, I want to be clear about something real quick, and this is the reason why I chose to use

- the CSB over other translations today for this passage.
- Because some translations say, those who DO these things do not inherit the Kingdom of God
    - Which can lead us to believe that if we look through this list, and there's something in there that we have done, then there's no hope for us
    - But that's not the case at all, there isn't a person in this room that isn't guilty of something on that list
    - Every single one of us, have probably done something on this list this past week, maybe even this morning!
  - But the more accurate translation is not, "those who do these things," it's "those who practice these things,"
    - There is a big difference between doing something and making a practice of it.

- Practice is something you intentionally repeat over and over again in the attempt to improve at it
- So if we are intentionally practicing the things on this list to try and improve or increase our sexual immorality, impurity, selfish ambitions, envy, ect. ...Then the Holy Spirit is probably not present in our lives and we will not inherit the Kingdom of God as a result
- However, whenever we inevitably do something on this list, we don't have to make a practice of it
- Like I've said before there's a big difference between sinning and living IN sin
- That's why John wrote in his epistle, "***I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.***"- ***1 John 2:1 (ESV)***

- Over and over again in the Gospels we see Jesus forgive people like adulterers, prostitutes, tax collectors, the list is endless of the people He forgave that would have been guilty of the things on this list
- But when He forgives them, He tells them “go and sin no more.” He says, it’s time to make a new practice.
  - That little word “IF” in 1 John 2:1 gives me so much hope....because he doesn’t say WHEN anyone sins, he says, “IF” anyone sins. Which tells me that it is actually possible to get to a point in my spiritual life where sin is no longer a common occurrence but it can be a rarity in my life.
  - But it’s going to take time and work on my part to get to that point.
- Paul gives a list of things that we should be practicing now if we are going to walk by the Spirit, and not give into the desires of the flesh....In verse 22 he writes, "***But the fruit of***

***the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***  
**-Galatians 5:22-25 (CSB)**

- Now, the word **Fruit**, in this context means, “**A work, act, or deed, that comes from or originates from something else.**”
- And this is what we so desperately need to understand, is that there is nothing on this list that originates from us.
- And we do not have the ability or capability to manufacture anything genuine on this list in our own power
  - But the good news is that:
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS YOU**

- In acts 1:8 Jesus tells the 120 gathered together before He ascends into Heaven that they will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on them.
- Now that word Power is the word, Dunamis, which is where we get the word, Dynamic or Dynamite
- So Jesus told us that this explosive dynamic Power would rest within us once we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- And there are 6 different connotations for this kinds of Power that the Holy Spirit brings
- 1. **“Inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature”**
  - This is the Power of the new nature, new system, new identity that you are given in Christ.
- 3. **Moral Power and Excellence of Soul**
  - This is the one that is most applicable to our study through the fruit of the Spirit
  - Because the only hope that we have to live a truly moral life, based around God’s standards, and truly have an excellent soul, comes ONLY from the power of the Holy Spirit
  - Any other manufactured form of morality will always fall short and lead to chaos.
  - Paul gives us a list of 7 things that we can begin to practice, and these are good and excellent moral things
  - But they originate from God Himself and we can only begin to practice them if we rely on the Power of the Spirit
- Now there are a few others, that we may get into later, but the last definition that we have for this kind of power is: **“The power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts”**

Sunday, April 16, 2023

- And I share this one because, whenever Paul says in verse 25, “Keep in Step with the Spirit.” That phrase has Military connotations
- Dr. Tony Evans puts it this way, **“The verb for “keep in step” is different from the word for “walk” in 5:16. It means, to march in step with your Commander so that He can lead you step-by-step.” -Dr. Tony Evans**
- This is why we entitled this series what we did. Because this is a Step-by-Step process.
- We do a very poor job as Christians and as the Church, of putting pressure on people to perform almost to perfection
- We look at these lists we read today and say, *“You better have all of these fruit of the Spirit in your life! It better be obvious and apparent!”*
- *“You better not even think about that fleshly list! I better not see any of that in your life, or you won’t inherit the Kingdom of God! And you won’t be accepted here!”*
- It drives me crazy whenever someone is new to the faith, and Christians put these expectations on them to automatically it and be veterans of the faith.
  - It’s like when a celebrity or musician comes to faith and they put out a new song or statement and all the christians do is just pick apart the theology instead of just appreciating the attempt! Appreciating the step that they have taken!
- *Remember the Goal of Christianity is not to get people to look like us. But the Goal is for all of us to look like Jesus*
- And are you there yet?? I know I’m not!
- This is a gradual, step by step process of sanctification in which we begin to practice things like the fruit of the Spirit.
- So we’re going to take this series Step by Step
- We’re going to spend the next 9 weeks walking through these Fruit of the Spirit, one by one, so



Sunday, April 16, 2023

we can learn how to intentionally begin to practice each of these things

- And pray for the Spirit to give us wisdom and power to be able to live these out.
- So Next week we'll start with Love.
- We're going to look at the true biblical definition of Love, where love truly comes from, and how we can find the hope to begin to Walk by the Spirit in Love.