

REVIVE US

HUB GROUP NOTES | FEBRUARY 21, 2021 WALKING IN THE SPIRIT (Pt 2): GALATIANS 5:16-21 David Newkirk

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
Galatians 5:16

Introduction: Read Galatians 5:16-18 out loud.

What spiritual battle rages within us? If we are to continue to live in the freedom we have been given, what do we need to do?

1. If you are a believer, you have received the Holy Spirit (Gal 4:6; Rom. 8:9). What does it mean practically to live by the Holy Spirit (vs. 15-17, 25)?

Leader's Note: Paul is offering a life that differs from what the church in Galatia was struggling with. He is offering a life that is different from a law centered on a libertine lifestyle. To live life in the Spirit, Paul uses a present tense imperative – the believers in Galatia need to continue to live their lives in this new reality of “the Spirit” just as they had before the Judaizers had tried to corrupt them.

2. “You will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” Paul uses a double negative in the Greek to emphatically make a promise to his readers. The promise he gives is the promise of the Gospel, that life in the Spirit negates life controlled by the flesh. Why do you think Paul makes this promise in such an emphatic way?

3. When Paul is describing the conflict between our flesh and the Spirit, does this resonate with your own experience? Why is there this opposition between the flesh and the Spirit in a believer's life?

Leader's Note: This dualistic nature is found not only in Paul's letters but in Johannine literature as well (John 3:6). The flesh and the Spirit are diametrically opposed to one another. The result is that one cannot do what they know to be right when in the flesh (living according to one's own guidance and the direction of whatever one desires), but only when they are living in the Spirit (living in the new reality of being “in Christ” and directed by God's Spirit). If a person chooses evil, the Spirit opposes him. If a man chooses good, the flesh hinders him.

4. Paul has made two very clear points in verses 13-18 in response to two distinct groups within the church of Galatia. Paul is giving an antidote to those who feel they have a license to sin freely and he is giving an antidote for the Judaizers who are trying to force new converts to obey the law. What is his antidote?

Leader's Note: A life of liberty is a life of love. A life of liberty is a life walking in the Spirit. Being "in Christ" is not nomism or libertinism, but a new life based in and directed by the Spirit.

5. Read verses 19-21. What is Paul's purpose in outlining the vices of the flesh?

Leader's Note: Paul is enforcing his earlier exhortation in verse 13 - not to convert their liberty to an occasion to do whatever the flesh desires, but to live a life of love, which can only be achieved by walking in the Spirit.

2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.