



Service Devotional Guide

June 7, 2020

Start by praying and asking God to meet you in this passage, the sermon, and the reading and prayers. Then read the following passage several times.

Galatians 5: 13-23

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Questions to Ponder

1. What is one word or phrase that stands out for you from this reading?
2. Why would St. Paul liken the symptoms of the presence of the Holy Spirit with fruit?

3. In the sermon, we heard—“Spiritual freedom is distinct in that it is not simply freedom from restraint, for if it is to be of any use, it must be matched by a sense of freedom for a particular purpose. There is an end goal to Christian freedom.” Unpack that sentence. Freedom from what? Freedom for what?
4. Again, in the sermon we heard of the purpose of spiritual freedom (v. 13-15), the power of spiritual freedom (v. 16-18) and the presence of spiritual freedom (v. 19-23). How does each of those elements—purpose, power and presence—of the Holy Spirit impact your life?
5. The first fruit—love—is of foundational importance in following Jesus. Why? What does love for the other, grounded in Christian freedom, look like?

Closing Prayer

Lord, please open up my mind to help me to understand the Bible. Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your revelation. Give me understanding so that I can know you better. Please give me spiritual wisdom and insight so that I might grow in my knowledge of you. Give me discernment to help me understand what I read.

Let your Holy Spirit guide me into the truth, reveal things to me from your Word, and explain spiritual truths to me. Teach me and help me to increase in learning and obtain guidance. Please help knowledge to come easily to me. Make things plain, clear, and easy to understand as I read.

Thank you in advance for helping me to understand the Bible! Amen.

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