

# FREEDOM IN CHRIST

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## *An 8-Week Bible Study on the Book of Galatians*

One Chapter per Week • Weeks 7–8: Deeper Themes

Discussion Questions • Think Deeper Scriptures • Prayer • Weekly Action

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free,  
and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*

— Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

Prepared for group or personal study  
Harvest Church • Think Deeper Show

## Introduction to the Study

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Welcome to this eight-week journey through the Book of Galatians. Paul wrote this passionate letter to the churches of Galatia (in the region of modern-day Turkey) because the pure Gospel of grace was under attack. Certain teachers (often called Judaizers) insisted that Gentile believers must be circumcised and keep the Mosaic Law in order to be fully accepted by God. Paul's response is one of the clearest declarations in all of Scripture that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ alone—not by works of the law.

The letter pulses with urgency, pastoral love, theological depth, and practical freedom. It answers the deepest questions of the Christian life: How are we made right with God? What is the purpose of the law? How do we live free from both legalism and license? What does it mean to walk by the Spirit?

## How This Study Is Structured

**Weeks 1–6:** We move chapter by chapter through Galatians, listening carefully to Paul's argument and applying it to our lives.

**Weeks 7–8:** We slow down and go deeper into the two central themes of the letter—Justification by Faith & Freedom from the Law (Week 7), and Life in the Spirit, the Fruit of the Spirit, and the New Creation Community (Week 8).

## Each Week Includes:

- **Chapter Overview** – a clear summary of the main flow and key points
- **Key Verses** – anchor texts to memorize or meditate on
- **Discussion Questions** – for group conversation or personal journaling
- **Think Deeper** – related Scriptures that expand the chapter's themes
- **Prayer Focus** – a guided prayer rooted in the week's truths
- **Action for the Week** – a concrete step to live out what you have studied

Suggestion: Read the assigned chapter at least twice during the week—once devotionally and once with a notebook. Come ready to talk honestly. The goal is not merely information but transformation: that we would stand fast in the liberty of Christ and walk by the Spirit.

## Suggested Memory Verses for the Series

Galatians 2:20 • Galatians 3:28 • Galatians 5:1 • Galatians 5:22-23 • Galatians 6:14

# WEEK 1

## Galatians 1 — No Other Gospel

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### Chapter Overview

Paul opens with a greeting that already highlights the heart of the letter: grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ “who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age” (1:4). He immediately expresses astonishment that the Galatians are so quickly turning away from the grace of Christ to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. He pronounces a solemn double anathema on anyone (even an angel) who preaches a gospel contrary to the one they received. Paul then defends the divine origin of his message and apostleship. He received the Gospel by direct revelation from Jesus Christ, not from any human authority. He recounts his former life as a zealous persecutor of the church, his dramatic conversion, his time in Arabia and Damascus, and his limited early contact with the apostles in Jerusalem. The point is clear: the Gospel he preaches is not man-made; it is God’s revelation of His Son.

### Key Verses

*“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel... But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6, 8)*

*“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12)*

### Discussion Questions

1. Paul is astonished that the Galatians are “turning away so soon.” What does this reveal about how quickly false teaching can take root, even among sincere believers?
2. Why does Paul use such strong language (“let him be accursed”) against a different gospel? How should we evaluate teachings today that add requirements to simple faith in Christ?
3. Paul insists his Gospel came by revelation from Jesus Christ, not from man. Why is the divine origin of the Gospel essential for its authority in our lives?
4. How does Paul’s past as a violent persecutor of the church (vv. 13-14) magnify the grace of God in his calling? What does this teach us about God’s ability to redeem anyone?
5. Verse 10 asks whether we are seeking to please man or God. In what areas of your faith, ministry, or relationships are you most tempted to please people rather than the Lord?

### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- Acts 9:1-22 — Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus and early preaching
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 — The Gospel Paul received and preached: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again
- 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 — Warning against another Jesus, a different spirit, or a different gospel
- Ephesians 2:8-9 — Salvation by grace through faith, not of works
- Jude 3 — Contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints
- Romans 1:16-17 — The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes



**Prayer Focus**

*Father, thank You for the pure Gospel of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Guard our hearts and our church from any distortion that adds human requirements to the finished work of the cross. Give us discernment to recognize “another gospel,” courage to stand for the truth in love, and a deep gratitude that You called us by Your grace alone. Help us live this week to please You rather than people. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

**Action for the Coming Week**

Write out a simple, clear statement of the pure Gospel in your own words (use 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 and Galatians 1:3-4 as anchors). Share it with at least one person this week—family member, friend, or coworker—and pray for anyone you know who may be under a works-based or mixed gospel.



## WEEK 2

### *Galatians 2 — Justification by Faith, Not Works of the Law*

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#### Chapter Overview

Paul continues the defense of his apostleship by describing his visit to Jerusalem fourteen years later (with Barnabas and Titus). The apostles there added nothing to his Gospel and recognized the grace given to him for the Gentiles. The chapter then turns to a dramatic confrontation in Antioch: Peter (Cephas) had been eating freely with Gentile believers until certain men from James arrived. Out of fear he withdrew, and even Barnabas was carried away by the hypocrisy. Paul publicly rebuked Peter because his conduct was “not straightforward about the truth of the gospel.” This leads to one of the most important theological statements in the New Testament: a person is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul declares that he has been crucified with Christ; it is no longer he who lives, but Christ lives in him. The life he now lives in the flesh he lives by faith in the Son of God who loved him and gave Himself for him. If righteousness could come through the law, then Christ died in vain.

#### Key Verses

*“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” (Galatians 2:16)*

*“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why was Paul’s public confrontation of Peter necessary? What was at stake for the truth of the Gospel and for Gentile believers?
2. What does it mean to be “justified”? How does justification by faith differ from trying to be made right with God by keeping rules or religious performance?
3. In what subtle ways can even mature believers (like Peter) slip into people-pleasing or cultural pressure that compromises the Gospel?
4. Reflect on Galatians 2:20. What does it mean practically that “I have been crucified with Christ” and that “Christ lives in me”? How does this change how we face temptation, identity, and daily life?
5. Paul says if righteousness comes through the law, Christ died in vain (v. 21). How does adding any human work to the Gospel nullify the grace of the cross?

#### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- Romans 3:19-28 — All have sinned; justification is a free gift by grace through faith in Christ, apart from the law
- Romans 5:1-2 — Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God and access into grace
- Philippians 3:4-9 — Paul counts all his religious credentials as loss for the excellence of knowing Christ and being found in Him
- Ephesians 2:8-10 — Saved by grace through faith; not of works, yet created for good works
- Acts 15:1-11 — The Jerusalem Council and Peter’s testimony that God purified Gentile hearts by faith
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21 — New creation; Christ made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

#### Prayer Focus

*Lord Jesus, thank You that I am justified by faith in You alone—not by my performance, background, or religious efforts. Forgive me for the times I have trusted in my own righteousness or given in to the fear of people. Help me live this week in the reality of Galatians 2:20: crucified with You, yet alive because You live in me. Let my confidence rest only in Your finished work on the cross. Amen.*

### **Action for the Coming Week**

Memorize Galatians 2:20. Each morning this week, declare it aloud as your identity. Journal one specific area where you have been living by “works” or people-pleasing rather than by faith in the Son of God. Surrender that area to Christ and walk in His life within you.

## WEEK 3

### *Galatians 3 — The Promise, the Law, and Faith*

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#### Chapter Overview

Paul turns directly to the Galatians with piercing questions: “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth...?” He reminds them that they received the Spirit by the hearing of faith, not by works of the law. He then goes back to Abraham: “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” The same promise of blessing is for all who believe—Jew and Gentile. The law, which came 430 years later, cannot annul the covenant previously confirmed by God. Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed (Christ) should come. The law served as a tutor (guardian/schoolmaster) to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the tutor. In Christ Jesus we are all sons of God through faith. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; for we are all one in Christ Jesus. And if we are Christ’s, then we are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.

#### Key Verses

*“Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.” (Galatians 3:6-7)*

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Why does Paul call the Galatians “foolish” and ask who has “bewitched” them? What does this teach us about the danger of drifting from the Gospel we first believed?
2. How did Abraham become righteous before God? What does this mean for both Jews and Gentiles who believe?
3. What was the purpose of the law according to Paul (vv. 19-25)? How does understanding the law as a “tutor” help us appreciate both its value and its temporary role?
4. Galatians 3:28 is often quoted. What does true oneness in Christ look like practically in a diverse church or family? How does it dismantle worldly status systems?
5. If we are already “heirs according to the promise,” how should that affect our sense of security, identity, and hope?

#### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- Genesis 15:1-6 — God’s covenant with Abraham and the accounting of righteousness by faith
- Romans 4:1-25 — Abraham justified by faith; the promise is by grace so that it might be sure to all the seed
- Romans 7:7-13 — The law reveals sin; it is holy, but it cannot give life
- Hebrews 8:6-13 — The better covenant and the new heart God writes His laws upon
- Colossians 3:11 — Christ is all and in all; no Greek/Jew, circumcised/uncircumcised distinctions
- John 8:31-36 — True freedom is found in the Son; the slave does not abide in the house forever

#### Prayer Focus



*Father of Abraham, thank You that the blessing of Abraham has come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Keep us from returning to the tutor of the law as if it could give life. Root our identity deeply in the truth that we are sons and daughters, one in Christ, and heirs of the promise. Let this reality silence comparison, status-seeking, and insecurity this week. Amen.*

### **Action for the Coming Week**

Read Genesis 15 slowly and then Galatians 3 again. Write down every phrase in Galatians 3 that describes your identity in Christ (sons of Abraham, sons of God, one in Christ, heirs, etc.). Choose one identity truth and speak it over yourself each day. Look for one practical way to treat someone as fully equal in Christ this week—especially across a cultural, economic, or generational difference.



## WEEK 4

### *Galatians 4 — Sons, Not Slaves; The Allegory of Two Covenants*

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#### Chapter Overview

Paul continues the argument about heirs. As long as an heir is a child, he is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father—no different from a slave. So we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because we are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore we are no longer slaves but sons—and if sons, then heirs of God through Christ. Paul then makes a deeply personal appeal: he fears he has labored in vain; he reminds them of their former care for him even in his physical weakness; he is perplexed about them. Finally he uses the allegory of Hagar and Sarah (from Genesis 16 & 21). Hagar the slave woman corresponds to Mount Sinai and the present Jerusalem in bondage; Sarah the free woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above, which is free and is the mother of us all. We, like Isaac, are children of promise. Cast out the bondwoman and her son—do not return to slavery.

#### Key Verses

*“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5)*

*“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’” (Galatians 4:6)*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between living as a slave under guardians and living as a mature son who has received adoption? How does this change our relationship with God?
2. “Abba, Father” is an intimate cry. What does it mean that the Spirit of God’s Son is in our hearts enabling us to call God “Abba”? How does this affect prayer and daily confidence?
3. Paul is deeply concerned and even “perplexed” about the Galatians. What does his pastoral heart teach us about how we should care for people who are drifting into legalism or false teaching?
4. In the Hagar-Sarah allegory, what is the danger of trying to live under both covenants—grace and law, freedom and bondage—at the same time?
5. What “elements of the world” or religious systems are you tempted to return to for a sense of security or identity instead of resting as a beloved son or daughter?

#### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- Romans 8:14-17 — Led by the Spirit of God; Spirit of adoption by whom we cry “Abba, Father”; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ
- John 1:12-13 — As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God
- Genesis 16 & 21 — The historical background of Hagar, Ishmael, Sarah, and Isaac
- Hebrews 12:18-24 — Not coming to Mount Sinai of fear, but to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
- Ephesians 1:5 — Predestined to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself

- 1 John 3:1-2 — Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God

### Prayer Focus

*Abba, Father, thank You for sending Your Son in the fullness of time to redeem us and bring us into full adoption. Thank You for the Spirit of Your Son crying out within us. Deliver us from every impulse to return to slavery—whether religious performance, fear, or worldly systems. Teach us to live this week as true sons and daughters who know we are loved, accepted, and heirs of the promise. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Action for the Coming Week

Each day this week, begin your prayer time by simply saying “Abba, Father” and remaining quiet for a moment, letting the Spirit affirm your adoption. Identify one area where you still feel like a slave (to approval, rules, past failure, or fear). Write it down, then write Galatians 4:6-7 beside it. Actively choose one “free” response that a beloved child of God would take this week.

## WEEK 5

### *Galatians 5 — Stand Fast in Liberty; Walk in the Spirit*

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#### Chapter Overview

Paul reaches the practical climax of the letter: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” If anyone receives circumcision as necessary for salvation, Christ will profit them nothing; they become debtors to keep the whole law and have fallen from grace. The only thing that counts is faith working through love. Paul warns that a little leaven leavens the whole lump and expresses confidence that the Galatians will come to the truth. He then turns to the life of freedom: freedom is not an opportunity for the flesh, but through love we serve one another. The whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” He commands them to walk in the Spirit, and they shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. The flesh and the Spirit are in conflict. The works of the flesh are evident (a long list of sins). But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

#### Key Verses

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1)*

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to “stand fast” in the liberty of Christ? What are some modern “yokes of bondage” that believers can become entangled in again?
2. Paul says faith works through love (v. 6). How is true Gospel faith different from both legalism and lawlessness?
3. Look at the list of the works of the flesh (vv. 19-21). Which of these most commonly appear in church conflicts or personal struggles today? Why does Paul say those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom?
4. The fruit of the Spirit is singular—“fruit”—yet listed as nine qualities. What does this teach us about the unified work of the Spirit in a believer’s character?
5. “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (v. 25). What is the difference between positional life in the Spirit and the daily practice of walking by the Spirit?

#### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- John 8:31-36 — If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed
- Romans 6:11-14 — Reckon yourselves dead to sin and alive to God; do not let sin reign; you are not under law but under grace
- Romans 8:1-14 — No condemnation; the law of the Spirit of life; those who are led by the Spirit are sons of God
- John 15:1-8 — Abiding in the Vine; bearing much fruit
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 — The supremacy and character of love
- Colossians 3:5-17 — Put to death the earthly members; put on the new man; love is the bond of perfection



**Prayer Focus**

*Lord Jesus, thank You for the liberty You purchased for us at the cross. Keep us from every yoke of religious or worldly bondage. Holy Spirit, produce Your fruit in us this week—especially in the relationships and pressures we face. Crucify the flesh with its passions and desires. Teach us to walk step by step in You, serving one another in love. Against Your fruit there is no law. Amen.*

**Action for the Coming Week**

Write out the nine aspects of the fruit of the Spirit. Each day, ask the Holy Spirit to grow one of them specifically in you (e.g., Monday – love, Tuesday – joy...). At the end of each day, journal one concrete way that fruit showed up—or where the flesh still tried to rule. Choose one person to intentionally serve in love this week without expecting anything in return.



## WEEK 6

### *Galatians 6 — Bear One Another's Burdens; A New Creation*

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#### Chapter Overview

Paul concludes with practical instructions for life in the Spirit-filled community. If anyone is overtaken in a trespass, those who are spiritual should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering themselves lest they also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Yet each one must also examine his own work and bear his own load. The one who is taught the word should share in all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Sow to the flesh and reap corruption; sow to the Spirit and reap everlasting life. Do not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Especially do good to those who are of the household of faith. Paul takes the pen himself for the final large-letter conclusion: those who compel circumcision want to make a good showing in the flesh and avoid persecution for the cross of Christ. But God forbid that Paul should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to him, and he to the world. In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. As many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. Paul's final words carry both tenderness and the marks of his suffering for the Gospel.

#### Key Verses

*“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)*

*“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.” (Galatians 6:14-15)*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What does it look like practically to restore someone caught in a trespass “in a spirit of gentleness”? How is this different from either ignoring sin or harsh judgment?
2. How do we balance “bear one another's burdens” (v. 2) with “each one shall bear his own load” (v. 5)? What is the difference between a burden and a load?
3. “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (v. 7). How does this principle encourage us to keep investing in the Spirit even when results are not immediate?
4. Why is boasting only in the cross so central for Paul? What other things are we tempted to boast in (ministry success, moral performance, spiritual experiences, cultural identity)?
5. “A new creation” (v. 15) is the only thing that ultimately counts. How should this truth reshape our priorities, relationships, and view of religious controversies?

#### Think Deeper — Related Scriptures

- Matthew 18:15-17 — The process of restoring a brother who sins
- James 5:19-20 — Turning a sinner from the error of his way saves a soul from death
- Romans 15:1-3 — We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 — The love of Christ constrains us; if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation
- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 — God has chosen the foolish; he who glories, let him glory in the Lord



- Hebrews 12:1-3 — Run with endurance; looking unto Jesus; do not grow weary

### Prayer Focus

*Father, make us a community that restores the fallen with gentleness and bears one another's burdens. Keep us from both harshness and indifference. Help us sow daily to the Spirit and not grow weary in doing good. Crucify our pride and our desire to boast in anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let the reality of the new creation define how we see ourselves and everyone around us this week. Amen.*

### Action for the Coming Week

Identify one person in your sphere who is carrying a heavy burden (spiritual, emotional, practical, or relational). Take one concrete step this week to help bear that burden with them—prayer, a meal, a listening conversation, practical help, or gentle restoration if needed. Also, examine your own heart: is there any area where you are still boasting in something other than the cross? Confess it and choose to glory only in Christ.

## WEEK 7

### *Deeper Dive — Justification by Faith & Freedom from the Law*

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#### Theme Overview

In Weeks 1–6 we walked through the letter. This week we slow down and go deeper into the central theological heartbeat of Galatians: we are justified (declared righteous) by faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works of the law. This truth is the foundation of Christian freedom. Legalism (adding human requirements to the Gospel) and license (using freedom as an excuse for the flesh) are both enemies of the cross. Justification by faith produces a new identity—sons and daughters who live by the life of Christ in them—and frees us from the endless treadmill of trying to earn what Christ has already fully purchased.

#### Key Passages to Re-Read Slowly

- Galatians 2:15-21 — Not justified by works of the law; crucified with Christ
- Galatians 3:1-14, 21-29 — Abraham’s faith; the curse of the law; the purpose of the law; oneness in Christ
- Galatians 4:1-7 — From slavery under the elements to adoption as sons; Abba, Father
- Galatians 5:1-6 — Stand fast in liberty; faith working through love

#### Discussion Questions for Deeper Reflection

1. In your own words, explain the difference between justification by faith and justification by works. Why does confusing the two destroy the Gospel?
2. Where do you still feel the pull of legalism—believing that God’s acceptance, favor, or love depends on your spiritual performance, consistency, or rule-keeping?
3. How does the truth “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (2:20) free you from both self-condemnation and self-righteousness?
4. What is the proper use of the moral law of God for a believer who is already justified? (Consider the law as a mirror that shows sin, a guide for grateful living, but never as a ladder to climb into God’s acceptance.)
5. How does justification by faith alone create true humility and true confidence at the same time?
6. Looking at the church and Christian culture today, where do you see modern forms of “circumcision”—extra requirements, cultural markers, or spiritual performance standards that subtly become necessary for full acceptance?

#### Think Deeper — Expanded Scripture Connections

- Romans 3:21-31 — The righteousness of God apart from the law, witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, through faith in Jesus Christ
- Romans 4:1-8 — David’s description of the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works
- Romans 5:1-11 — Results of justification: peace, access, hope, love poured out, reconciliation
- Romans 8:1-4 — No condemnation; the law of the Spirit of life has made us free from the law of sin and death
- Philippians 3:7-9 — Counting all things loss to gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the law
- Titus 3:4-7 — Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us

- Hebrews 10:11-18 — The once-for-all sacrifice; no more offering for sin; the law written on hearts

### Prayer Focus

*Righteous Father, thank You that in the Gospel Your righteousness has been revealed apart from the law. Thank You that I am justified freely by Your grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Expose every place in my heart where I still try to earn what You have freely given. Let the finished work of the cross silence both my accusations and my pride. Teach me to live this week as one who is fully accepted, fully loved, and fully free—because Jesus lives in me. Amen.*

### Action for the Coming Week

Take one full hour this week for an extended time with the Lord. Read slowly through Galatians 2:15–3:29 and Romans 3:21–5:11. Journal answers to these three questions: (1) What have I been trusting in for my standing with God besides Christ? (2) What would change in my daily emotions and relationships if I truly believed I am already fully justified? (3) What is one practical way I will walk in this freedom this week (instead of performing or withdrawing)? Share one insight with a trusted believer.



## WEEK 8

### *Deeper Dive — Life in the Spirit, the Fruit, and the New Creation Community*

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#### Theme Overview

Justification by faith is never meant to leave us passive. The same grace that declares us righteous also gives us the Holy Spirit to live a new kind of life. This final week explores the practical outworking of the Gospel in Galatians 5–6: standing in freedom, walking by the Spirit, bearing the fruit of the Spirit, restoring one another gently, carrying burdens, sowing to the Spirit, and boasting only in the cross. The Christian life is neither law-keeping in our own strength nor careless license. It is the life of the crucified and risen Christ expressed through us by the Spirit, producing a community marked by love, humility, and mutual care—a living display of the new creation.

#### Key Passages to Re-Read Slowly

- Galatians 5:13-26 — Called to liberty; walk in the Spirit; works of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit
- Galatians 6:1-10 — Restore with gentleness; bear burdens; sow to the Spirit; do not grow weary
- Galatians 6:14-16 — Boast only in the cross; a new creation is what counts; peace and mercy on those who walk by this rule

#### Discussion Questions for Deeper Reflection

1. Freedom in Christ is not the right to do whatever we want; it is the power to serve one another in love (5:13). How does this redefine true freedom for you?
2. The flesh and the Spirit are in ongoing conflict (5:17). What does it look like practically to “walk in the Spirit” in the middle of that conflict rather than trying harder in the flesh?
3. Which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit do you most need the Holy Spirit to grow in you right now? Which work of the flesh most easily reappears when you are tired, stressed, or wounded?
4. Restoring a brother or sister “in a spirit of gentleness” while “considering yourself” (6:1) requires both courage and humility. Why are both necessary? Have you experienced either side of this process?
5. “Do not grow weary while doing good” (6:9). What causes spiritual weariness in you? What promises or practices help you keep sowing to the Spirit when results are slow?
6. If the only thing that ultimately counts is “a new creation” (6:15), how should that affect the way we handle secondary disagreements, cultural preferences, and personal preferences inside the church?

#### Think Deeper — Expanded Scripture Connections

- John 15:1-11 — Abide in the Vine; without Me you can do nothing; fruit that remains
- Romans 8:5-17 — The mind set on the flesh vs. the mind set on the Spirit; led by the Spirit of God
- Ephesians 4:1-3, 29-32 — Walk worthy; bear with one another in love; kindness, tenderheartedness, forgiveness
- Colossians 3:12-17 — Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility; let the peace of God rule; do all in the name of the Lord Jesus
- 1 John 4:7-21 — Love is of God; perfect love casts out fear; we love because He first loved us
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 — The love of Christ constrains us; ministry of reconciliation; ambassadors for Christ
- Hebrews 10:24-25 — Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works; not forsaking the assembling

#### Prayer Focus



*Holy Spirit, thank You for the liberty You bring and the fruit You alone can produce. We cannot manufacture love, joy, peace, or self-control by trying harder. Fill us afresh. Walk with us step by step this week. Make us gentle restorers, willing burden-bearers, and patient sowers who do not lose heart. Let the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ be our only boast, and let the reality of the new creation shape every relationship and decision. Form us into a community that displays Your life to a watching world. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### **Action for the Coming Week (and Beyond)**

Choose one of the following as a focused practice for the next seven days (or longer): (1) Daily ask the Spirit to grow one specific fruit and look for opportunities to express it; (2) Identify one person who needs gentle restoration or burden-bearing and take a concrete step toward them; (3) Write a short personal “rule of life” based on Galatians 5–6 (how you will walk by the Spirit, respond to the flesh, treat others, and keep the cross central). Share your commitment with one trusted believer who will pray with you. At the end of the week, thank God for every evidence of His Spirit’s work—however small—and continue walking.

## Closing Encouragement

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You have walked through one of the most powerful letters ever written. Galatians will keep speaking to you for the rest of your life. Whenever you feel the pull toward performance, comparison, fear of people, or the weariness of self-effort, return to these pages. Remember: you are justified by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you. You are a son or daughter who cries “Abba, Father.” You have been set free—stand fast. The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you and is committed to producing His fruit. The only thing that ultimately counts is the new creation.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen. (Galatians 6:18)*

## Suggested Continuing Practice

- Re-read the entire letter of Galatians in one sitting at least once a month for the next three months.
- Keep Galatians 2:20, 5:1, and 5:22-23 in your regular memory rotation.
- When you encounter teaching that seems to add requirements to the Gospel, return to Paul’s questions and warnings in this letter.
- Continue walking by the Spirit one day at a time, sowing to the Spirit, and boasting only in the cross.

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*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”*

— Galatians 6:15 (NKJV)

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