

LESSON #8

Life in the Holy Spirit

Holy-Spirit-led living is Christlike living.



Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	The Apostle Paul writing to the believers in Galatia. These believers are being misled by false teachers (Judaizers) who are insisting they must keep the Old Testament physical and legal Laws to be truly saved.
WHAT (Core Message)	We are justified (made right with God) completely by faith, not by works of the law. God's promise to Abraham was based on faith, and the law was only meant to be a temporary guardian until Christ arrived.
WHEN (Timing)	Written around AD 48-49. In early parts of the letter Paul references God's covenant with Abraham, then later emphasized how the time to walk in that promise (liberty) is NOW, the present.
WHERE (Location)	Sent to the churches in the region of Galatia.
WHY (Rationale)	To correct the false teaching that Christians must obey the Mosaic Law to earn God's approval, and to remind believers of the absolute freedom and righteousness found only in Christ's finished work. Works have power but not saving power.

Introduction- Let's take a minute for a quick re-orientation.

Although not titled a Missionary, The Apostle Paul was VERY active in the planting of several churches (predominantly home based) and converting many Jews, Gentiles and other people

groups, to Christianity-*the teaching and following of Jesus*. He personally led many to the faith with his fiery preaching style and unmatched defense of the Gospel

Paul was not physically in Galatia preaching but sending this lengthy letter to address stumbling blocks erected by the Judaizers in Galatia. It is important that we understand who the Apostle Paul is addressing in the book of Galatians and why, so the letters make sense to us as readers and students. There are two layers of people within Paul's letters.

#1. There is a targeted geographical context tied directly to the location (Galatia), which at the time was a Roman Province and a melting pot of Jews, Gentiles, Greeks and Celts to name a few.

#2. There are subsets of people within that broad grouping that he addresses as "The churches of Galatia". These were primarily Gentile and Jewish converts to Christianity during Paul's earlier Missionary visits.

For our learning, "Galatians" is not specifically a people group, but more so, many people groups living in the Province of Galatia. Paul's letter to the churches of Galatia is to encourage them to resist outside pressures to follow the now obsolete Jewish (Mosaic) law and stand in their new liberty through Jesus.

Key Terms Defined

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD IN GREEK	PRONUNCIATION	DEFINITION (CONTEXTUAL)	WHY THIS WORD MATTERS?
Circumcision	?	?	cutting around or to cut. Has symbolic and spiritual meaning	strong influence from Judaizers / strong opposition from Paul
Restore/ Restoration	Katartizo	Cat-art-ezo	To mend or put in order. Return to the former state.	goal for all believers to be reconciled to Christ / Legalism interferes with this
Fruits (spiritual)	Karpos	Car-pose	?	Judaizers place no value in this as they are Spiritually produced / Paul emphasizes this is the evidence of the walk with Christ
Flesh	?	?	?	Judaizers valued works of flesh / Paul preached crucifixion of flesh

SECTION 1: PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM IN CHRIST

(Read Galatians 5: 1-15)

The Apostle Paul finds himself confronting the effects of false teaching to the believers throughout Galatia, who have been infiltrated and convinced to believe their trust in the gospel message and faith in Jesus is suddenly, no longer good enough.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text focus:** Explain who were the main antagonists or agitators threatening the churches of Galatia and what name were they called?
 2. What were the two main areas of emphasis the agitators were insisting on with the churches of Galatia?
 3. What is Paul's primary hope and warning to the churches of Galatia? What is his biggest concern?
 4. **Bonus Application question:** In Gal 5:11, Paul speaks about the "offense of the cross". The cross has been hotly debated since the event itself. Considering all the stories and text surrounding Christianity, why do you think the cross has been and is still so controversial?
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SECTION 2: WALK AND LIVE IN THE SPIRIT

(Read Galatians 5: 16-26)

During Paul's early missionary journeys, he used metaphors of warfare to describe the effects of sin verses holiness. In this way he painted a vivid picture that they were indeed in a battle.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text Focus:** With what we now know about conversion to Christianity, in your OWN WORDS, describe the relationship between: "*The flesh*" & "*The Law*" vs. "*The Spirit*" & "*Liberty*"?
2. What is the main lesson for application the modern church should take away from the churches of Galatia?
3. **Application:** Let's go back in time to approximately 50 A.D. All of us are now transported to sit in and observe the reading of Apostle Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia. We can hear and see them, but they cannot detect us in any way. What do you think the conversations and reactions were like in response to the lengthy letter?

SECTION 3: DO GOOD TO ALL

(Read Galatians 6: 1-6)

Paul transitions from defense of freedom and liberty and begins to realign his readers to the most important element of his missionary work in Galatia. He reminds them that their conversion means they are “walking with Christ” and this walk should not only produce evidence (*fruit*, Gal. 5) of his Holy Spirit in their lives, but with that spirit, they are expected and empowered to extend goodness to all. Furthermore, they should develop a special sensitivity toward fallen believers that they may be restored to the faith. He acknowledges this is not achievable in their own power and determination, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text Focus:** Paul delivers a powerful message in chapter 5 using words like *protect*, *standfast* and *conflict* which could indicate an aggressive thought posture. However, in chapter 6, his language changes to words like *restoring*, *gentleness* and *love*. What do you think is the reason for the shift in language and instructions between chapters 5 & 6?

Conclusion

Like it was for the churches of Galatia it is for us today. The freedom we have through Jesus was not earned or deserved but freely given to us, yet still at a cost. This truth means the value of that freedom is even greater than any reward we could achieve as human because it was given by God through his son Jesus. With this knowledge we can understand why Apostle Paul wrote such a passionate letter to the churches in Galatia. With the stakes being so high and with so much to lose, his letter was a loving effort to once again save the saved. He describes this as an emotional and spiritual struggle that is like the “pain of childbirth”. (Gal 4:19)