

The Holy Spirit Changes Us (Galatians 5)



Dear families,

Today's passage from Galatians illustrates the Holy Spirit's power in Christ followers' lives. Written by the apostle Paul to the non-Jewish congregation in Galatia, this letter outlines the importance of pursuing righteousness by faith as opposed to the works of the flesh.

How are believers today at risk of pursuing legalism or lawlessness rather than the love of God just as the church in Galatia did? Why is it essential to live in step with the Holy Spirit's guidance instead of false doctrines or the whims of our flesh?

Though thousands of years have passed since Paul first penned this writing to believers in the place known today as Turkey, today's Christians still wrestle in the faith as they did back then—between the belief that we must earn salvation and the tendency to forgo good works altogether. For the Galatians, the issue at play was a mistaken belief that circumcision was necessary upon coming to faith.

Paul discussed how being led by the Holy Spirit in faith is our hope of righteousness; it is not our works that save us, but faith in the work Christ did on our behalf. Even so, good works are the evidence of His power in action within our lives. Christ kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit, and He in turn empowers and enables us to be His witnesses on mission to the world through our words and our actions.

The balance between legalism and lawlessness could never be attained by doing more good things or by avoiding being bad; rather, the steadiness we seek is only found in following the Holy Spirit's

guidance. The proof of our following is the fruitfulness in our lives, as seen in the ways we love God and our neighbors.

As you prepare to study Galatians 5 with your kids, consider sharing how the Holy Spirit's guidance has shaped your own spiritual journey. May we all continue to grow in fruitfulness as we yield to the power of the Spirit in our own lives.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** The Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to be like Jesus.
- **Younger Preschool:** The Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to obey. The Holy Spirit helps us as we tell others about Jesus.
- **Older Preschool:** The Holy Spirit changes us so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to obey. The Holy Spirit helps us as we share the gospel in all the world.
- **Kids:** The Holy Spirit changes our minds and hearts so that we want to obey God, and He gives us power to obey. The Holy Spirit guides us as believers as we live out God's mission for us to share the gospel in all the world.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit helps us as we live.
- **Older Preschool:** How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.
- **Kids:** How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus. Galatians 5:22
- **Younger Preschool:** God's Spirit gives us love, joy, and peace like Jesus. Galatians 5:22
- **Older Preschool:** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Kids: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Galatians 5:22-23

**** Next week:** Peter Preached in Jerusalem (Acts 2)