

Session #3: Not I But Christ:
Walking By the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-26)

We Are Free to Take Our Stand Firmly in Christ Alone – Ga 5:1,13; II Cor 3:17

- He is the Liberator – Lk 4:18; Jo 8:32-36; Jo 1:14
- ...We stand freely in the amazing grace of Christ – Ga 5:2-4
 - = to “fall from grace” is to experience a loss of freedom – Ga 5:1,4
 - = to be “severed from Christ” is to be cut off from the gracious activity of God in and through us – Ga 5:4
 - = there are no “benefits” outside of Christ – Ga 5:2
- ...We stand freely in the liberating truth of Christ – Ga 5:7
 - = Christians will never live freely on “fiction” – Jo 8:32-36
 - = The life of freedom is only experienced in the person of Truth – Jo 5:39-40

We Are Free to Take Our Stand Faithfully in Christ Alone – Ga 5:5-7

- the Spirit of Christ is the energizing Source of all Christian living – Ga 5:6
 - ...we stand discerningly before our fellow man – Matt 24:4; Jer 29:8-9
 - ...we stand humbly in the cross of Christ – Ga 5:11; I Cor 1:18
 - = the cross rejects all means to human “rightness” with God – Ga 5:5; Heb 9:12; I Pet 1:18,19

We Are Free to Take Our Stand in the Family of God – Ga 5:13-16

- The nature of God is relational – Ga 4:6
 - ...Every conflict is an “opportunity” to love – Ga 5:13
 - ...The “fruit” of such a choice is the emancipation of Christ’s life through us – Ga 5:22-23
 - = we have no freedom that contradicts the self-giving, self-expending nature of Jesus Christ!
- God’s will is a family – Gen 1:26; 5:22-23
 - ...characterized by love – Ga 5:6,13,14; Jo 13:34-35; I Jo 4:7-18
 - ...a safe place where we can be loved into being – Acts 19:18; Ja 5:16; I Cor 13
 - = where we “one another” one another (over 50 times in the New Testament!)

We Are Free to Be Led By, Walk By, Live By God's Spirit in Us – Ga 5:16,25

Who He Is:

- He is a “member” of the Trinity – Ga 3:2-5,14; 4:6
 - ...an essential union and relational communion of Uncreated Persons Who are One
 - ...an equality, mutuality and reciprocity of loving and holy Oneness
- He “holifies”, sanctifies everything He touches, wherever He is
 - ...the personal Source for all things Christian

What He Does:

- He gives us Life... God's Life – Ga 5:25
 - ...He is the agent of new birth – Jo 3:6,8
 - ...He indwells us in all His fullness – Col 2:9-10; II Pet 1:3,4
- He advocates for Christ's interests in us – Jo 14:16
 - ...He guides us into the Truth – Jo 16:13 (= What God says)
 - ...He convinces us of what is real – Jo 16:8-11 (= What God sees)
 - ...He reveals God-glorifying options – Jo 16:14 (= How God lives)
- He applies the atoning work of Christ to all our experience – Ro 6:6-11; 8:13; Ga 5:24
 - ...What we are “dead” to... What we are “alive” to – Ro 6:10-11
 - ...shifting our focus from “just me” to “Christ in me” – Col 1:27; Ga 2:20
- He calls us into community with one another – I Cor 12:4-13
 - ...to share our lives in common – I Jo 1:1-7
 - ...to live with reference to others, not ourselves – Ga 5:13; Phil 2:3; Mk 10:45
- He invites our response – “Want to go for a walk together?” – Ga 5:25
 - ...get in step with His authority and ability – Ga 5:16,25
 - ...proclaim and personalize the character of God as us – Ga 5:22-23; Lk 1:38

“If the Spirit is the SOURCE of our lives, then let the Spirit also direct our course.” (NEB – Ga 5:25)

Two Sources: "Spirit" or "Flesh"

- "Spirit": "I AM" (the name for God's life IN man)
- "flesh": "i am" (the way I'd do life if God were NOT in me)
 - ...They are not two "natures" at war within the Christian! – II Cor 5:17; Ro 8:5-17
 - ...They are mutually exclusive sources – Ga 5:16-17; Jo 8:23; Ro 8:7-8
- Christians ("new creations" in Christ) DO NOT Have "Self" Problems... Only "Source" Problems!
 - ...Human wholeness, maturity, "shalom": - I Thess 5:23,24
 - = The human spirit enlivened and indwelt by the Holy Spirit – Ga 4:6
 - = The human soul tuned and turned to the Spirit of Truth – Ja 1:27
 - = The human body presented to God as a unique expression of His Life – Ro 12:1-2
- The Spirit-led, Spirit-walked, Spirit-lived Life:
 - ...we celebrate our union with Him – Jo 14:3; Ga 2:20; Col 1:27; I Cor 6:17; Col 2:9-10
 - ...we cultivate our communion with Him – I Jo 1:1-7; Jo 15:1ff; II Cor 1:3; Jo 4:24
 - ...we consent to His expression – Ga 5:26; Ro 6:10
- Philippians 2:12-13 – "Working" It Out – Ga 2:20
 - ...we own our body/soul reactions – "the life I now live in the flesh" – Jo 12:27; Ps 43:5; 55:4,5
 - = our "desires of the flesh" are not the problem... "indulging" them is! – Ga 5:16; Heb 4:15
 - = for grace to work, we must be honest/real – II Cor 4:8-10,16; II Cor 12:7-10
 - = these "squeezings" are meant for us – Gen 1:28,31; Ja 1:2-4
 - = they are "agents" of God, "escorts" of God, calling us to Himself – II Cor 4:7-10,15,17
 - ...we assume a "not I, but Christ" stance – Ga 5:1; Col 3:4; Jo 14:6
 - = the insertion, practice of the "Holy But" – Matt 26:39
 - = from "soul" to "spirit" (Heb 4:12); from "below" to "above" (Col 3:1-4); from "appearance" to "righteous judgment" (Jo 7:24); from "just me" to "Christ in me" (Col 1:27)
 - = have a "battle cry": _____
 - ...we make a choice of faith – Ga 5:25
 - = we authorize the Spirit to be the "Supreme Court" – the ruling choice/reigning Voice!
 - = not a matter of "willpower" (5:17), but of trusting in a Person in the "obedience of faith" – Ro 1:5; 16:26
 - = "May it be done to me according to Your Word" – Lk 1:38

Then, we will be LIVING the Truth of the Gospel!

...the Center/Source is God, the means is grace, the result is the freedom to be an expression of His Life!