

UNLOCKING FREEDOM: A STUDY OF GALATIANS #12
FREEDOM-FAITH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD
GALATIANS 5:12-25

GETTING STARTED

On a scale of one to ten, how aware were you last week of the Holy Spirit in your life (with one being “constantly aware of the Spirit” and ten being “never thought about the Spirit”)?

DIGGING IN

Observations of the Word (move quickly through this section)

Read Galatians 5:16-25. According to this passage, what two things are at work in every Christian (v 16-18)?

How do you explain that although your sinful nature has been crucified (v. 24), there is still struggle and conflict in your life (v. 17)?

What hope does the promise of verse 16 give to you?

What does the metaphor of “fruit” (v 22) in contrast to “works” (v 19) tell you about the way these good traits become a part of your life? (For further study, read John 15:1-8).

Interpretations of the Word

What do you learn about the human heart from the list of the works of the flesh?

What does it mean to crucify the flesh with its desires? Why is crucifixion a good description of what must happen to the sinful nature (flesh)?

The Holy Spirit is often the least understood member of the trinity. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind? What does it mean to have the infinite God dwelling in us?

LIVING IT OUT

Applications of the Word

What is God’s part and what is your part in spiritual growth? What does it mean to “live” or “walk” by the Spirit?

Which of the works of the flesh are you particularly susceptible to?

Which of the fruit of the Spirit have you sensed in yourself or been told that others see in you? Which of these seem to come more easily to you because of your personality type or temperament?

Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you routinely seem to lack?

Assignment for this week: Keep track for a day of (1) all the things God’s Spirit convicts you about and (2) all the things the Spirit leads you to do. How do your two lists compare with the lists in 5:19-23? This experience should make you more attentive to the Spirit and less preoccupied with the things of the flesh.

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589.