

GALATIANS 5:25-6:10

In this epistle, the Spirit (the Author behind the author) has been revealing Himself and His work to us. He's the promised One, the Spirit of Christ given to all who simply believe. He assures our salvation: by Him we cry out Abba, Father. We can walk in Him and be led by Him; our Helper, Comforter, Counselor, Truth, and Power. He creates His beautiful fruit in us and sheds God's love abroad in our hearts. And He shines His floodlight full on Jesus Christ, drawing us to Him.

John Fischer wrote:

*The sanctuary..is inside you: if you believe in God, He dwells within you;  
He will be in your soul...everywhere you go: He will speak...He will speak.*

As you quiet your heart and open His Word, ask that you will clearly hear His faithful voice.

**If you wish** take some separate time this week to read back through the book of Galatians in one sitting.

**Review** your memory verses: Galatians 1:3-5; 2:15-16, 20.

**Begin memorizing** Galatians 5:22-23.

**Scan** back over Galatians 5:16-24. **Read** thoughtfully Galatians 5:25-6:10.

**In His Footsteps: Stay Close Galatians 5:25-6:5.**

Paul has told us so much about the blessed gospel, the good news that brings us into relationship with God by faith alone. In these last passages, he's been showing us how we "live out" the gospel, especially in relationship with those around us.

1. Jot down your observations on Paul's opening words:  
If (since) we live by the Spirit

let us also walk by (march in formation, keep in step with) the Spirit.

2. Our flesh prefers its own way. From 5:26 explain what that looks like as we deal with others. (*Provoke* means "to call into a contest.")

In strong contrast, Paul now shows life together in the Spirit. Read 6:1: "this isn't about detecting a person in the act, but of his being caught by the trespass through being off guard." W. E. Vine

3. What do you think “you who are spiritual” means? (Perfect? Completely “together?”)
  
4. What invaluable insight and counsel does verse one provide? (*Restore* is to repair, such as setting a broken limb, mending and cleaning a damaged net.)
  
5. Next Paul says, bear one another’s *burdens*, meaning extremely heavy, pressing weights.
  - a. What are specific ways you can do this in your life today?
  
  - b. As you reach out to those God brings your way, you fulfill the \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .  
(Optional: What does John 13:34-35 tell us?)
  
6. We aren’t “nothing” to our Savior. Remembering the context, what do you think Galatians 6:3 is warning us about?
  
7. Paul says to test our works. How can returning to the words of 5:25 help us do this?

In Him, we truly *can* “have reason to boast (exult, rejoice) in ourselves alone, not in regard to another.” Paul goes on in 6:5 to speak of a load that’s a personal-sized “day pack.” It’s basically how we each decide to respond to God. No one can “carry” this for another. He is calling us *individually* to submit to the Spirit’s leading and find our life, direction, and rest in Him alone.

**In His Footsteps: Keep Going! Galatians 6:6-10.**

8. Paul is coming into the home stretch in his letter—his deeply earnest words reflect the Spirit’s heart. With the past context in mind, read 6:7. What do these words communicate?
9. Notice in verse 8 there are only two possibilities in life; there is no middle or neutral ground. Tell what these words/phrases mean to you:
- The one who sows to his own flesh
- will reap destruction or corruption
- the one who sows to the Spirit
- will from the Spirit reap eternal life

Note: We escape eternal destruction and receive eternal life as we believe. As believers, we can also experience “eternal life” here and now (real life in God) and *spread it around*, or not—depending on our choices.

10. a. The words of verse 8 lead us into his next statement. What does Paul share in 6:9 for those of us “in the middle of our sowing?” How does this speak to you today?
- b. Optional: though you may not yet see the outcomes you desire, are there some ways you are already “reaping” as you walk closely with the Spirit (keep “doing good”)?
11. Here are encouragements from the Spirit as you sow. Underline what stands out to you today.

***The LORD is the everlasting God... He does not faint or grow weary, His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and to Him who has no might He increases strength ...they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40***

***Not that we are sufficient in ourselves.. but our sufficiency is from God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. II Corinthians 3,4***

*O LORD my God, I cried to you for help..I will extol Thee...for Thou hast lifted me up...Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. As for God, His way is perfect. One generation will commend Your works to another, they will tell of Your mighty acts...the power of Your awesome works..they will celebrate Your abundant goodness. Psalm 30, 145, II Samuel 22.*

12. Just a note: Every single one of us have sown to the flesh and seen its sad harvest. Here's a word for all Jesus' redeemed ones:

*"We're often reaping yesterday's harvest. Today we're still going through those weeds. But keep on sowing today. It will take time, but the good harvest will come."* David Roper

13. Re-read 6:6 which refers to a wonderful source of help as we seek to sow to the Spirit.  
a. Explain what this resource means in your life.

b. What are ways we can "share all good things" with these servants of Christ?

14. Note 6:10 starts, *Therefore*: the Spirit of Christ is sending us out, and He's going with us. What are your thoughts concerning these final words? Where does Acts 1:8 fit in the picture?

These are truly "words of life." The Spirit desires great and joyful reaping for us, so He tells us the truth. He warns us away from our deceitful, deadly flesh and invites us to take each step of the way with Him. Finish your study time with this hymn of prayer:

*Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me—Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me*  
Daniel Iverson, 1935