

## **Bible Study: Galatians 5:16-26 – Study Guide**

### **September 23, 2020**

In verse 13, Holy Spirit, through the pen of Paul, delivered this warning:  
<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. *Now He, delves into this point of warning in a greater way:*

<sup>16</sup> So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

<sup>17</sup> **For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.**

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

<sup>19</sup> **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:** sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

<sup>20</sup> **idolatry and witchcraft; HATRED, DISCORD, jealousy, FITS OF RAGE, selfish ambition, DISSENSIONS, FACTIONS**

<sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> **But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, goodness, faithfulness,**

<sup>23</sup> **GENTLENESS and SELF-CONTROL.** Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

<sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Notes from v. 16-18 –**

“Consider 1 Peter 3:21 – “baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” It is NOT the ritual of going under the water; but... It is the state of the heart based on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. THAT is the baptism that is salvation: the heartfelt faith in Christ’s work.”

**How do we develop this ‘good conscience’?**

**This is the invitation of verses 16-18; How do we discern the difference between the thoughts of the ‘sin nature’ from the thoughts of the ‘Spirit’?**

**A TRUE PLUMB LINE IN SCRIPTURE:**

**\*Romans 8:5-** “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

**Notes from v. 19-21-**

**Notes from v. 22-23-**

**The key to victory in spiritual warfare is to feast on joy and fast negativity.**

**Philippians 4:4-8-** “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!  
<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

**The ‘sin nature’ will always focus on negativity. It will refuse to admit fault, but always point the finger to others.**

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.

The key to the fulfillment of the surrounding verses is the 'fruits of the Spirit'- to do away with negative talk and pointing the finger at others, but to say, "Lord, search my heart. I see this issue in others, but do I need work and healing in the same area."

We know the saying: "When you point the finger at someone else, there are 4 (or 3) fingers pointing back at you."

It is the Spirit of God that desires for us to slow down, and engage in the process of inviting Jesus to show us our own faults; so that we may repent, and learn the new way of the Holy Spirit.

### **Notes from v. 24-26-**

*The process of achieving breakthrough in verse 24 can be very painful and difficult, but it is possible in this life. It is the answer to all of our relational issues.*

**James 4:1-4-** "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup>When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

**A Challenging thought: What is the difference between 'lust' and 'love'?**

**Lust satisfies self at the expense of others.**

**Love satisfies others at the expense of self.**

*Will we take the leap to lay down our own opinions and desires for our Jesus, our loves ones, and even strangers?*

*Concluding thoughts: The best way to make breakthrough into living by the Spirit is to “focus on the fruits of the Spirit” and ‘fast negativity and feast on joy.’ If I will pray into Romans 8:5 continually, Holy Spirit will teach us to discern the difference between the thoughts of the ‘sin nature’ and the ‘Spirit.’*