

WALK FAITHFULLY (Part 2) Galatians 5:13-26

As you gather to hear and apply God's Word, start by sharing how you were influenced by the previous study since your last meeting. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

The Old Testament law was established to show God's people what it means to obey him. It also showed that it is impossible for us to meet his standards, which is why we needed a Savior. After Jesus took our sin upon himself, he left us the Holy Spirit as an internal guide to help us grow in our faith. The Spirit also helps us to obey God as we struggle against our human tendency to want to go our own way.



Read Galatians 5:13-26:

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire [Old Testament] law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Discuss:

1. Describe the tension between our natural inclinations and what God commands us to do.
2. You may experience dysfunctional school or work places where there is "biting and devouring," along with conceited people who provoke or envy others (vv. 15, 26). How can you resist falling into the trap of joining in?
3. What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit," be "led by the Spirit," "live by the Spirit," and "keep in step with the Spirit" (vv.16, 18, 25)? How can you live this out daily?
4. How can the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-23) enhance your work as a nurse – both with co-workers and patients? What about among your classmates?
5. From this passage, how does living a faithful and obedient life tie in with mercy and justice/advocacy?

R Respond Actively

As you end your study, choose one or both options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* On a linear scale, with the “acts of the flesh” on one end and “living by the Spirit” on the other end, where would you place yourself right now? What areas of struggle do you want God’s help to overcome? What are one or two things that you can do this week to help you live according to what God wants you to do?
- *External:* Think about your non-NCF friends in nursing school. Read again the list of the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-23. What characteristics do you think would make the most impact on your friends? Pray that the Holy Spirit will aid you in living out this fruit of the Spirit among your friends this week. Identify one specific way that you can put this into action as a witness for Christ in your school.