

Evidence of the Spirit  
Galatians 5:16-26; Psalm 1

# 1. Evidence for the Spirit

“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 do not do what you want.”

Galatians 5:17

"Certainly God sometimes works wonders of sudden deliverance from this or that weakness at conversion, just as he sometimes does at other times; but every Christian's life is a constant fight against the pressures and pulls of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and [the] battle for christlikeness (that is, habits of wisdom, devotion, love, and righteousness) is as grueling as it is unending."

-J I Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit*

2. What's the right strategy?

“If you are led by the Spirit, you’re no longer under the Law.”  
Galatians 5:18

“If people are not restrained by law of Moses, then won’t everybody just fall back into pagan immorality? Don’t we need the law? And maybe some extra laws?”

“If I can’t be perfect, and God forgives me and shows his grace when I sin, I guess I should just keep sinning.”

Legalism

License

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

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 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.

Galatians 5:13-15

~~Legalism~~

~~License~~

Life Led by the Spirit



3. What does life led by the Spirit look like?

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.

Galatians 5:22-23

“I’m in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.”  
Galatians 4:19

The design of the gospel is this: the image of God, effaced by sin, may be stamped anew upon us, and the advancement of this restoration may be continually going forward in us during our whole life, because God makes his glory shine forth in us little by little.

- John Calvin

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Galatians 5:22-23

## 4. Power for the Battle

Jesus “gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father”

Galatians 1:4

"Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation."

Galatians 6:15

## Augustine:

1. able to sin, able not to sin (posse peccare, posse non peccare)
2. not able not to sin (non posse non peccare)
3. able not to sin (posse non peccare)
4. unable to sin (non posse peccare)



hatred vs love and joy

discord vs peace

anger vs patience

rage vs kindness

selfish ambition & selfish pleasure vs generosity and goodness

dissensions leading to factions vs faithfulness to others

5:21

NIV: “those who live like this”

ESV: “those who do such things”

literally: “those who are doing such thing”

Augustine:

“Let no one say in his heart, his promises are true, but his warnings are not.”

5. How do we fight?

“walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the  
flesh” “keep in step with the Spirit” (5:16, 25)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24

Sex 19: Sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery

Religion 20a: idolatry and witchcraft

Social malfunction 20b: hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy

Drink 21: drunkenness, orgies, and the like

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Heavenly Father, I worship you as the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Lord Jesus, I worship you, Savior and Lord of the world.

Holy Spirit, I worship you, sanctifier of the people of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me. *Amen.*