



Bible Study Questions

23rd March 2025 – Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:16-26

Discussion Starter

What are you good at? Do you have a gift or skill that you could use to bless others with, or a hobby that you excel at? How do you feel when you use your gift, skill, or hobby, and what has been the result?

Introduction

Paul, in his letter to the church in Galatia (a region in modern-day Turkey), wrote to defend the Gospel and address the false teaching that was creeping into the church. He reminded them (and us) that we are justified by faith in Jesus alone and that true freedom is found in Him. Paul now turns to the practical matter of how we should live out our lives. We have two choices: we can live according to the flesh or according to the Spirit. Both will produce fruit in our lives.

Read Galatians 5:16-26

What stands out to you, or what do you notice?

What questions are raised for you?

What challenges you?

Questions

- Paul starts our passage with a challenge to "walk by the Spirit". What do you think this means, and how might we do that today?
- Galatians 5:17 speaks of a conflict. Where is this conflict taking place, and how might we overcome it?
- Galatians 5:19-21 provides a list of the "acts of the flesh". What do you notice about this list? Do you think it is exhaustive, or are there other things we might add to it? Is this a hierarchical list—are some things worse or better than others? Would God treat the things on this list differently?
- Galatians 5:22 begins with the phrase, "But the fruit of the Spirit..." Why do you think the term fruit was used rather than works? What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) and the gifts of the Spirit (see Romans 12:6-8 or 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)?
- List or read aloud the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit. Which of these characteristics do you find the easiest to live out? Which is the hardest?
- How do we "crucify the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:24)?

Application

- Which characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit do you need to cultivate more intentionally?
- What steps can you take this week to "walk by the Spirit"?

