

20210801 Our Journey: From conflict to freedom  
(Conflict, Struggle, Knowledge, Decision, and Freedom)  
Galatians 5:16-26

- <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.

(Romans 7:19, 22-24)

"I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in

that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope."

The five experiences in our spiritual journey: conflict, struggle, knowledge, decision, and freedom.

### **EXPERIENCE NUMBER ONE: CONFLICT**

Verse 16

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

### **EXPERIENCE NUMBER TWO: STRUGGLE**

Verse 17

**<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.**

### **EXPERIENCE NUMBER THREE: KNOWLEDGE**

Verse 18

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

problem deep down in our heart, inside of us. That's the function of the law.

Verse 19

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

Eugene Peterson's Message Bible paraphrased the verse like this: *(It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: **repetitive**, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness;)*

Verse 20

<sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

Message paraphrase - *(trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits;)*

Verse 21

<sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

Message paraphrase - *(the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.)*

I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Verse 22

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness,

Message Bible paraphrase - *(But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard--things like **affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity**. We develop a*

***willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments)***

Verse 23

<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Message paraphrase - *(**not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.**)*

Verse 24

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

Message paraphrase - *(Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities **is killed off for good--crucified.**)*

## EXPERIENCE NUMBER FOUR: DECISION

Verse 25

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

Message paraphrase reads this verse - *(Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, **let us make sure** that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but **work out its implications in every detail of our lives.**)*

## **EXPERIENCE NUMBER FIVE: FREEDOM.**

Verse 26

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

Message bible reads this verse this way - *(Keeping in step with the Spirit by working out the Gospel truth implications in every detail of our lives means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.)*