

“I find this principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:21-24)

This is what life is like for all good people who are outside of Christ. A fight between a good heart and imperfection due to desires in the flesh; and despair at knowing this cannot end well.

“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (7:25, 8:1)

I humbly give thanks to God for the freedom from sin that Christ provides. The battle wages on, and I do not always choose the right thing, but as I seek Christ, repent and grow, He keeps me saved in Him.

Now that is the good news of the gospel isn't it? Peace where guilt once lived. A sense of hope where once was only despair. It is great to be a Christian. But how many realize that the battle rages on?

A battle continues between serving the Holy Spirit in our godly spirit and serving the adversary by giving in to the desires of the flesh. Christ will continue to forgive, if we continue to fight for good in our bodies.

A battle that must be fought and won in the mind:

“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God.” (8:5-7)

And growing beyond that, battles in Christ are won in the way we live every day:

“So then, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (8:12-14)

Who is ready to be redeemed and blessed by Christ? I know that you are.

Who is ready to fight in mind and body to win the war against fleshly desires for Christ's sake?

If so, today, and throughout this Fall Series, we will settle in **Galatians 5** to learn how to fight well.

I. Freedom is on the Line (Galatians 5:13-16)

- a. If we aren't careful, our freedom in Christ can be forfeited. How? By taking it for granted, putting our weapons down, losing our sense of urgency, and letting fleshly behavior back in.
- b. The battle has a prize and it is your soul and the devil is fighting for it. If we aren't careful; if we take for granted we will always have Jesus, the flesh will overtake us and we will lose.
- c. **Romans 11:22** - You will have to live forever with the knowledge that Satan didn't take your soul. You gave it away, by the lack of urgency to fight for your relationship with Jesus.

II. You can Win this War (Galatians 5:16)

- a. We look at the list of fleshly deeds, and the masses that fall victim to them every day and think, “I can't win. I am powerless to overcome these things.” That is not true! Through Christ's strength you can prevail in godliness. But you need to know HOW that happens.
- b. Offense is your best Defense! Using the power of the Spirit we can slay the dragon.

Love ← → Immorality	Joy ← → Strife, Jealousy
Gentleness ← → Disputes, Factions	Self-Control ← → Drunkenness

III. **There can be no Compromise (5:17)**

- a. So many people just want to say, “hey, this is no big deal. I’ll be very spiritual and love people and have joy in Jesus and be kind to others. And I’ll have some vices and fleshly things going on. In the end it is all going to work out.” Question: *“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”*
- b. If we try, the fleshly things will constantly be attacking and seeking to destroy the spiritual things.
- c. **Matthew 13:22** – They cannot co-exist. Sin will not stop until it has banished righteousness. Seen here with worries eventually consuming all faith. (See **I John 2:15-17**)
- d. In our list, pick one, any one. You want to have joy in Christ and be immoral. Immorality will take every ounce of that joy before it is done. No compromise.

So, you want to be with Christ, free in Christ, forgiven through Christ and protected by Christ. Fight for it! Are you looking for true and abiding motivation to make the tough choices and changes for the Spirit?

IV. **Fight for the King (Galatians 5:24)**

- a. Make choices based on the worthiness of Jesus Christ – **Galatians 3:26-29**
 - i. Everything we have: faith, protection, oneness and promises is because of what He was willing to do on our behalf. He gave heaven and his life for you and for me.
- b. Sin killed Jesus. Fleshly passions of men drove in the nails. And I will fight that sin. I will not allow to live in me the very things my King died to destroy.
- c. **Romans 6:10-11** – He died for the cause of good over evil. And I will live for it.
- d. This isn’t some out there battle we have to fight. It’s inside of you every day. Fight for Him.

V. **Fight for the Cause (Galatians 5:25)**

- a. This phrase is often used in view of our freedom in this country. People fight valiantly to gain freedom and keep it. They believe in that cause so much they’d give their lives for it.
- b. Our cause is “Life in the Spirit.” The great purpose of life is to gain hope for the soul and life in Christ and we receive the gift of salvation from the Holy Spirit. Isn’t it great?
- c. So let’s walk like we believe in something. Let’s walk and live consistent with what we believe in! I will not be a Christian in ideal only. For this is no ideal without godly choices.
- d. **Ephesians 4:1-3, 22-24, 31** – Not using war language here but saying, “hey, if this is who you are, if this is what you are about and believe in, live like it!”
- e. Irony of our passage of course (**Galatians 5:25**) is that you can’t live for the Spirit unless you are walking for the Spirit. Walk the walk. Because of the cause for which you live.

VI. **Fight for the Future (Galatians 6:7-9)**

- a. Not just about what Christ DID or what you ARE but where you are GOING!
- b. The army and soldiers who fight with wisdom and tireless valor will win something.
- c. The army and soldiers who fail to make the right choices will receive an outcome as well.
- d. So it is with you, oh soldier of the one whom you serve. You get out of life what you put in.
- e. **Romans 6:21-22** – Paul explains it so clearly in this text. Look at our two lists. You choose whatever you want. Pursue whichever you desire. But know this: the outcome of one is eternal life and the other eternal separation from God.
- f. Who is ready to fight today, with these choices, for what they want in the reaping?
- g. Can you use LOVE for God, FAITHFULNESS to His word, or SELF-CONTROL right here and right now to outright slay sin, ending its presence in your life? Put sword in hand as fellow soldiers stand by; flesh or spirit, only one is getting out of here alive.

Fruit List – pick one, think, pray, determine, ACT **Deed List** – pick one, identify, determine, ACT