

Week of July 2 - Small Group Lesson Lesson 6

Connect

What do you think of the expression, “It doesn’t hurt to ask?” Is it OK to simply ask for things we do not deserve? Why or why not?

Verses - Galatians 5:13-18 (NKJV)

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Study

1. a. When Paul says that Christians have been "called to liberty," what does he mean? What is God's intention for us in setting us free? (v13b,14; John 8:34-36)

   b. In what ways could we misunderstand Christian liberty?
      i. What are the limits (if any) of Christian liberty?
      ii. What obligations (if any) do Christians have?
      (1 Peter 2:16; Romans 6:10-14)

2. Is every Christian led by the Spirit? (v.18)

   a. Does He lead us all in the same way? In the same manner? At the same speed?
   b. In what sense is it possible to resist Him? Is it possible to return to His leading? (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18; Ephesians 4:30)

APPLY: How can we be led by the Spirit when we struggle against Him? How can we return to His leading after becoming insensitive to it?
(v.16; Galatians 5:1; Matthew 14:28; Romans 8:26a; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19)

DISCUSS: Why should we continue seeking to be led by the Spirit, despite the inability to *always* do so? (v.17; Ephesians 4:1-3; Galatians 6:9; Revelation 22:12)

Share

How has the Spirit led you from the time you first believed, until now?

Please share examples of when you have been surprised by the leading of the Spirit, either in your own life, or in the lives of other believers.

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray the Spirit leads us, yield to His leading, even if we are unsure or afraid.
- Pray to respect His leading in the lives of others and be slow to judge them.