



08.22.10 / Galatians 5:16-26

Materials Needed: none

Opening Activity

Ask the children if they've ever tried to do something on their own that was too difficult? How did they know they needed help? Was it homework, putting together a toy, finding the answer to a problem? In this passage, Paul explains that we can't find the fruit of the Holy Spirit without Jesus' sacrifice and the help of the Holy Spirit.

Read Galatians 5:16-26

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Discussion

In this passage, Paul explains to the Galatians the difference between our sinful nature and living a life led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to die for our sins. When he died for us, He gave us His righteousness, so that when God sees us, He sees the goodness of Jesus. If we choose to accept this gift from Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us, and it is our guide. In this passage, Paul explains the difference between trying to follow the law ourselves without the help of Jesus and what it's like to live under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When we try to do good things on our own, we are ignoring Jesus' gift to us. By believing that Jesus died for our sins and was raised back to life, we accepting His perfect life as a trade for our sinful life, and the Holy Spirit keeps us alive in Christ and transforms us to be more like Jesus.

Question 1

What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

The Holy Spirit is contrary to our sinful nature. If we accept that Jesus died for us and we believe in Him, the Holy Spirit lives within us. The Holy Spirit teaches us to focus on God instead of ourselves, and He changes us to be more like Jesus!

Question 2

How do we know that we need Jesus?

When we try to live our lives by doing things without the help of the Holy Spirit, our sin is evident. Paul lists some of the sinful acts that are seen in our lives when we live a life without Jesus. The sin in our lives is destructive for us and also for the people around us. It is only by accepting Jesus and allowing God to do His good work in our lives through the Holy Spirit that we are able to overcome the temptation of sin.

Question 2

What do our lives look like when they are led by the Holy Spirit?



The Bible tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. With the Holy Spirit keeping us alive in Christ, we are able to more fully understand how much God loves us. Understanding of His love helps us to see how damaging sin is in our lives. Because of His love for us and because we know He wants what's best for us, we are able to resist the temptations of sin.

Wrap Up

Let's close our time thanking Jesus for His sacrifice for us and for the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Let's ask Him to remind us of His great love for us, and to give us strength to resist the temptation of sin. Thank you, Jesus, for the wonderful example of love that you show us—please make us more like you and bring the fruit of the Holy Spirit into our lives.