

Two Ways to Live

Key Scriptures: *Genesis 21*
John 10:10 I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Romans 8:2-4 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ What the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, ⁴ in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

^{CSB} *Galatians 4:21-5:1* ²¹Tell me, you who want to be under the law, don't you hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and the other by a free woman. ²³ But the one by the slave was born as a result of the flesh, while the one by the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴ These things are being taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery-- this is Hagar. . . . ²⁸ Now you too, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as then the child born as a result of the flesh persecuted the one born as a result of the Spirit, so also now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? "DRIVE OUT THE SLAVE AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE SLAVE WILL NEVER BE A COHEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN." ³¹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of a slave but of the free woman.
5:1 For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm then and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Key Point: The abundant life comes when we rely on God to do for us what we can't do for ourselves. The abundant life flows from a "God dependent" life.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is something you tried to do yourself before realizing you really needed help? (Examples: assembling IKEA furniture, fixing plumbing, cutting your own hair.)

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- Kyle mentioned 6 primary things that define a Christian. Which stood out to you most, and why do you think transformation is often the hardest to experience?
 - We have been born again by the spirit of God.
 - God has forgiven our sin.
 - We have an absolute assurance of eternal life.
 - We have a personal relationship with God.
 - God the Holy Spirit indwells us.
 - We live a transformed life.
- What are some of the things Paul is arguing in Galatians 4:21-5:1?
- What does Hagar represent? What does Sarah represent? (v. 22-24)
- What is it that the Law could not do (Romans 8:3)?
- What are some subtle ways Christians measure their spirituality by performance?
- The sermon clarified that effort isn't wrong, it's the motivation behind it. What is the difference between effort driven by guilt, pressure, or trying to earn your own righteousness (and God's favor) and effort flowing from grace, and walking in the Spirit?
- "If I do better, God will love me more." Have you ever believed this? How does it affect your relationship with God?
- In what areas of your life do you feel like you're "spinning the fan" instead of relying on God's power?
- ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.
How are each of the things mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 examples of "God Dependence?" Why is this important?

Start doing: What is one area of your life right now where you need to shift from self-effort to trusting God? What is one step you can take this week to rely more on the Holy Spirit instead of your own strength?

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

-
-