



Set Free to Love:

Stand Firm in Your Freedom

GALATIANS 5:1-6





CONTENTS

WELCOME:	
Fixing Our Focus	1
WORSHIP:	
Adoring Our God	1
WORD & WALK:	
Understanding & Applying the Word	2

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Set Free to Love: Stand Firm in Your Freedom Galatians 5:1–6

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask GG members to share an experience when they received an offer that was too good to be true. What were the things that were going on in their minds? What made them feel this way? Use this to segue into the lesson where the Galatians were thinking of supplementing works to their faith, because it seemed too good to be true that faith alone is what they needed for salvation.

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

Living Hope

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

- GG members will stand firm in their faith and resist trying to earn God's favor through works.
- 2. GG members will work out their faith by loving God and others.

INTRODUCTION

Having thoroughly argued against adding obedience to the Mosaic Law to their faith, Paul exhorted the Galatian believers to stand firm in their faith. Not only does it bring them salvation, but it also transforms them inwardly to desire to do God's commands.

Paul warned the believers from submitting to the law for salvation (vv. 1-6)

Paul warned that if they submitted to the law, they would not add it to their faith in Christ. Instead, they would be abandoning Christ. All they needed was faith, which would produce the necessary works later.

- 1. What did Christ set the believers free from? (cf. Galatians 4:3, 8) What should all believers do in light of this? (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:15)
- 2. Why did Paul warn the Galatian believers against submitting to the law for salvation? (cf. Galatians 3:11)
- 3. What is the implication once they submit themselves to circumcision? What's the problem with submitting to the whole law? (cf. James 2:10; Romans 3:20)
- 4. Why did Paul say that those who seek to be justified by the law are severed from Christ? (cf. Galatians 2:21) What is the implication of adding something to Christ's death for justification?
- 5. What is the hope that believers have through the Spirit by faith? (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2)
- 6. According to Paul, what is the only thing that counts for the one who is in Christ? What does this reveal about our faith that differentiates it from the law?

APPLICATION

Christ alone frees us from trying to earn God's favor through works. He did what none of us can do: perfectly obey God's laws and pay for the penalty of our sins. His sacrifice on the cross is complete. To add works to our faith is to say that Christ's death is insufficient. That's why it is equivalent to abandoning Christ. Clinging to faith alone does not mean that we disregard God's commands. For faith transforms us inwardly to desire to obey God's commands. What are some ways for you to express your faith through love, either for God or others?

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WORD & WALK: Understanding & Applying the Word

PRAYER ITEM

Father God, thank You for granting us salvation through Jesus Christ. He is all we ever need. Protect us from thinking we need to supplement his sacrifice with our works. Our works can never earn our salvation. We pray that you develop our faith, so that it bears fruit in love for You and others. Cultivate our love so the world may recognize us as Your followers and glorify Your name. We pray for all this in Christ's name. ■

We value your feedback.

If you used this study guide to lead your growth group, please rate it at https://gcf.link/GCFSGFeedback

Thank you!



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