



DRAW NEAR TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Galatians 5:16-24

DRAW NEAR REMINDERS

You DRAW NEAR by ENGAGING in your group.

- Halloween is coming. Is there anything fun we could do together for that?
- Does anyone have any connection to The Zone (or Indianola Parks & Rec)? Remember, The Zone after school program at the middle school is our Dollar Impact being collected next week. Is there any other way we could impact The Zone as a group?

You DRAW NEAR by BEING EXPECTANT.

- Be expectant at group... someone pray now, before you get started into your group time, for the power and presence of God in your group meeting!

INTRO QUESTION

1. The focus of this week was to LIVE DIFFERENTLY. Has anyone ever tried to make a BIG life change? How did it go? Did you succeed or fail? What were the trials and struggles along the way? Looking back, what would you have done differently?

READ TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to read our passage from Galatians this week:

Galatians 5:16-24

(To get a good feel of the last two weeks of Galatians and how they build upon each other, you could also read all of chapter 5)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. What stuck out to you or what challenged you from this week's message or bible passage?

2. Can you put “walk by the Spirit” or “keep on walking by the Spirit” into terms that a
3. Is there a fruit of the Spirit that comes naturally to you?
4. Is there a fruit of the Spirit that is really UNnatural for you? (Like, one that you are the opposite of or struggle with a lot!)
5. If walking by the Spirit, and showing the fruit of the Spirit in your life, are all about drawing near to God... let’s ask the question – Are you drawing near to God? Specifically, how are you doing that?
 - a. If you’re not, what’s keeping you from that right now?
6. The “works of the flesh” are a little more difficult to talk about than the fruit of the Spirit. If we’re a safe place, and our group is built on trust, let’s dig in a little. Is anyone here struggling with one of those “works of the flesh” that you’d like to share about?
7. In Hebrews 10:24, it says, *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”* (NIV). How can we spur each other on to keep on walking by the Spirit?

NEXT

Based on what we’ve looked at this week what is the NEXT thing that you need to do? How can we help?

1. What fruit of the Spirit can you start working on and asking for help in?
2. Is there a work of the flesh that you need to let go of and give over to God so that you can start walking by the Spirit?
3. Let’s pair up and have someone check in with us later this week on our next steps. Who can pair with who?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

How Do You Walk by the Spirit?

But the \$60,000 question is, *How* do you walk by the Spirit? All of us have heard preachers say, "Let the Spirit lead you," or, "Allow the Spirit to control you," and have gone away puzzled as to what that means practically. *How* do you allow the Spirit to control you? I want to try to show you that the answer is, *You allow the Spirit to control you by keeping your heart happy in God.* Or to put it another way, *You walk by the Spirit when your heart is resting in the promises of God.* The Spirit reigns over the flesh in your life when you live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for you and now is working everything together for your good.

Here's the fivefold evidence from Galatians. *First*, [Galatians 5:6](#), "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love." Genuine faith always produces love, because faith pushes out guilt, fear, and greed and gives us an appetite to enjoy God's power. But [Galatians 5:22](#) says love is a fruit of the Spirit. So if love is what faith necessarily produces and love is a fruit of the Spirit, then the way to walk by the Spirit is to have faith — a happy resting in the promises of God is the pipeline of the Spirit.

Second, notice [Galatians 5:5](#): "For through the *Spirit*, by *faith*, we wait for the hope of righteousness." How do you wait for Jesus "through the Spirit"? "By faith!" When you keep your heart happy in God and resting in his promises, you are waiting through the Spirit and walking by the Spirit.

Third, look at [Galatians 3:23](#): "Now before faith came, we were confined under the law." The coming of faith liberates a person from being under law. But what does [Galatians 5:18](#) say? "If you are led by the Spirit you are not under law." How, then, shall we seek to be led by the Spirit? By faith. By meditating on the trustworthiness and preciousness of God's promises until our hearts are free of all fretting and guilt and greed. This is how the Holy Spirit fills and leads.

Fourth, see [Galatians 3:5](#): the clearest of all: "Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing of faith?" The Spirit does his mighty work in us and through us only by the hearing of faith. We are sanctified by faith alone. The way to walk by the Spirit and so not fulfill the desires of the flesh is to hear the delectable promises of God and trust them, delight in them, rest in them.

Finally, consider [Galatians 2:20](#): "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Who is the Christ who lives in Paul? He is the Spirit.

As [Galatians 4:6](#) says: The Spirit of God's Son has been sent into our hearts. And how, according to [Galatians 2:20](#), does the life of the Son produce itself in Paul? How does Paul walk by the Spirit of the Son? "The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God."

Day by day Paul trusts the Son. Day by day he casts his cares on God, frees his life from guilt and fear and greed, and is borne along by the Spirit. *How*, then, do we walk by the Spirit? The answer is plain. We stop trying to fill the emptiness of our lives with a hundred pieces of the world, and put our souls at rest in God. The Spirit will work the miracle of renewal in your life when you start meditating on his unspeakable promises day and night and resting in them. (See also [Romans 15:13](#); [2 Peter 1:4](#); and [Isaiah 64:4](#).)

Excerpt taken from John Piper at www.desiringgod.org. To read the full sermon go to <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-war-within-flesh-versus-spirit>