

## **Saturday, July 11, 2026**

Read Galatians 5:13-21 once again:

<sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

<sup>16</sup>So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>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."

Paul reminds us we are called to a life of freedom, a life led by the Spirit. To be led is to follow whoever is in front of you. Do you trust the Holy Spirit to know where He's going?

Imagine the Holy Spirit leading you into your day today, committing every appointment, activity, or personal interaction as his leading.



"Becoming" • Week 1

Galatians 5:13-21, *The Spirit vs. the Flesh*

In such chaotic times as this current cultural moment, the Church has a different and better way of life to offer the world. The fruit of the Spirit is about living life by the Spirit of God in order to become the kind of person this world needs.

This series of devotionals is designed to take us deeper into what God has for us each week, based on the topic of the previous Sunday's teaching.

This week gets us ready for the upcoming specifics of the fruit of the Spirit by examining the context in which Paul is writing. It is a context of war - the Spirit vs. the flesh, Galatians 5:19-21.

Instructions: this could be a simple format for your prayer time:

1. Begin with a prayer of approach, asking God to reveal himself to you and to take you deeper into relationship with him.
2. Come with an attitude of humility, submission, and learning, so that you're ready to obey what God says.
3. Pray the Scripture for that day. Read it slowly. What stands out to you? What strikes you? Read it a second time slowly.
4. Keep note throughout the day how you experience God's love for you. Be thinking about what you could share with someone else regarding the goodness and love of God.

## **Friday, July 10, 2026**

Titus 3:3-7 reads,

"<sup>3</sup>At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

1. How have you experienced "the kindness of God" in your life?

2. The Holy Spirit brings renewal in our lives and in our world. What do you want the Holy Spirit to renew in your life?

## **Thursday, July 9, 2026**

The Holy Spirit has been alive and active all along.

Read Genesis 1:1-2. The HS is there at the beginning of all things.

1. In the midst of the chaos (emptiness, the raging waters), where is God?
2. What chaos in your life or in the world can you invite the Holy Spirit into? (finances, kids, marriage, singleness, work, friends?)
3. How does it feel knowing that God is right there in the chaos of our world, able to bring Life to it all?

## **Monday, July 6, 2026**

The first question to consider is, really, do you WANT to become the kind of person this world needs? Do you want to become more like Christ?

If so, can you articulate why?

If you do not want to become like Jesus, why do you think that is? Bring this concern to God.

Read John 20:19-22.

Becoming more like Christ is not something you do on your own, in your own human power; it is something you receive. Imagine yourself in that room in John 20 and Jesus says to you "Receive the Holy Spirit." How can you receive this gift today?

## **Tuesday, July 7, 2026**

Becoming a person who “walks by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16) means recognizing ways in which we do NOT walk by the Spirit. This is what Paul calls the “flesh.”

Remember - the “flesh” here refers not to the physical body, but to the self-focused, self-referenced patterns of life where we attempt to do things apart from God.

1. Are there any “conflicts” in your heart and soul these days? (Gal. 5:17) Do not judge yourself about them, simply notice them and name them.
2. Bring these to the Lord in prayer and ask him what he wants you to do with them.
3. Read over Paul’s list of the acts of the flesh (or “sinful nature”). Again, in a spirit of no condemnation, which ones do you struggle with?
4. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you release those deeds of the flesh and lay them down at the foot of the cross.

## **Wednesday, July 8, 2026**

Today, consider the four categories of the acts of the sinful nature (the “flesh”) that Paul lists in Galatians 5:19-21.

They are: 1) indulgences (doing/eating/saying whatever you want, whenever you want), 2) sexual sins, 3) religious-type sins (“idolatry, witchcraft” - trusting in things other than God), and 4) relationships (hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy.)

1. Is there one of these categories that you tend towards?
2. Where do you see these in our culture today?
3. How can the Church show the world a different way of being in the world?