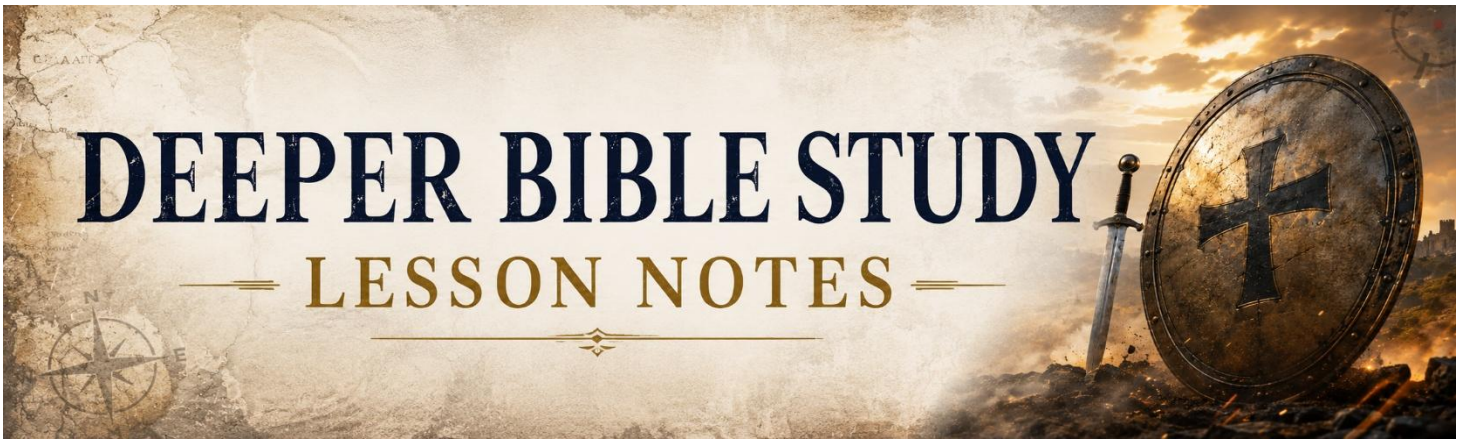

THE WAR WITHIN (GALATIANS 5:16-26) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ

WALK, DON'T WRESTLE

Galatians 5:16 (NLT)… So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

- **THE LEGALISTS' ANSWER WAS MORE RULES. PAUL'S ANSWER IS A _____.**
  - **PERIPATEŌ** *(peh-ree-pah-teh-oh)* **=** to walk around… the everyday word for how you live. It is present tense = keep on walking.
    - **Walking in the Spirit is not a Sunday sprint… it is an everyday walk.**

- **"THEN YOU WON'T…"**
  - **OU MĒ** *(oo-may)* **=** a double negative… the strongest way to say NO in the Greek language.
  - Paul does not say, "Kill your flesh and then you can walk in the Spirit." He says, "Walk in the Spirit and you absolutely won't fulfill the flesh."
    - **Victory does not come from fighting your flesh HARDER… it comes from following the Spirit _____.**

THE FIGHT IS PROOF OF LIFE

Galatians 5:17 (NLT)… The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

- **"THESE TWO FORCES ARE CONSTANTLY FIGHTING EACH OTHER"**
  - **ANTIKEIMAI** *(an-tee-kay-my)* **=** to lie opposite… to be _____. Two armies on opposite sides of the same field… and the field is YOU.
  - *2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)… I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

- **This is not a war that ends at the altar… it is an everyday fight and an everyday victory.**

- **THE FLESH HAS CRAVINGS… BUT SO DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
  - *Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)… For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh…*
  - **EPITHYMEŌ** *(ep-ee-thoo-meh-oh)* **=** to strongly desire… to crave. Paul uses the SAME verb for both.
    - **When you got saved, you did not just get a new rulebook… you got new _____.**

- **BEFORE JESUS, THERE WAS NO WAR.**
  - The flesh ran the house unopposed… dead men don't fight. The fact that you FEEL the fight means Somebody _____.
  - *Romans 7:19 (NLT)… I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.*
  - *Romans 8:7 (NLT)… For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.*
    - **The struggle is not proof that you are lost… it is proof that you are not _____ in there.**
    - **Good intentions can't defeat the flesh… only the Holy Spirit can.**

YOU TRADED LEADERS

Galatians 5:18 (NLT)… But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

- **"DIRECTED BY THE SPIRIT"**
  - **AGŌ** *(ah-go)* **=** to _____. The same word used when Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)
  - *Romans 8:14 (NLT)… For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

- **THE LAW WAS OUR "GUARDIAN." (GALATIANS 3:24-25)**
  - **PAIDAGŌGOS** *(pie-dah-go-gos)* **=** PAIS (child) + AGŌ (to lead)… literally, the _____. The household slave who walked the children to school with a rod in his hand.
  - *Jeremiah 31:33 (NLT)… I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts.*
    - **You did not lose your leader… you traded leaders.**

- **The law led you from the OUTSIDE with a rod… the Spirit leads you from the INSIDE with a _____.**

- **"DIRECTED" IS PASSIVE. YOU DON'T LEAD… YOU ARE LED.**
  - A lot of us want the Holy Spirit to be our GPS… we pick the destination and ask Him for the best route.
    - **That is not being LED… that is being _____.**

THE FLESH HAS TWO OUTFITS

Galatians 5:19-21 (NLT)… When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

- **"THE RESULTS ARE VERY CLEAR" = VISIBLE… OUT IN THE OPEN… ON DISPLAY.**
  - The war is invisible… the results are not.

- **PAUL CALLS THESE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH.**
  - *Galatians 3:3 (NLT)… After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?*
  - "Human effort" is the same Greek word… FLESH. Ishmael was "the child born by human effort." (4:29) Same word. The Galatians' RELIGION was the flesh.

- **8 OUT OF 15 ARE ABOUT HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE.**
  - Hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy…

- **"ANYONE LIVING THAT SORT OF LIFE"**
  - **PRASSŌ** *(pras-so)* **=** to practice… to keep on doing it as a lifestyle. Paul is not talking about a FALL… he is talking about a _____.
  - *1 John 3:9 (NLT)… Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them.*

GROWN, NOT MANUFACTURED

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)… But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- **WORKS ARE MANUFACTURED… FRUIT IS _____.**
  - No apple tree has ever strained to produce an apple… it just stays connected.
  - *John 15:5 (NLT)… Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.*
  - *Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)… Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.*

- **"WORKS" IS PLURAL… "FRUIT" IS SINGULAR.**
  - It is not 9 fruits… it is 1 fruit with 9 flavors.
  - LOVE, JOY, PEACE — my life _____… with God.
  - PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS — my life _____… with people.
  - FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL — my life _____… with myself.

- **GIFTS SHOW WHAT GOD CAN DO THROUGH YOU… FRUIT SHOWS WHAT GOD HAS DONE _____ YOU.**
  - *Matthew 7:16 (NLT)… You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.*

- **SELF-CONTROL = STRENGTH HELD IN… MASTERY FROM THE INSIDE.**
  - *1 Corinthians 9:25 (NLT)… All athletes are disciplined in their training.*
  - The law can RESTRAIN the flesh… only the Spirit can _____ it.
    - **We do not pursue fruit… we pursue the Spirit, and HE produces the fruit!**

NAIL IT… DON'T FEED IT

Galatians 5:24 (NLT)… Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

- **3 CRUCIFIXIONS IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER**
  - Galatians 2:20 — What God did FOR me.
  - Galatians 5:24 — What I do WITH Him.
  - Galatians 6:14 — What happens to the world's PULL on me.
    - **Galatians 5:24 is ACTIVE voice… not something done TO us… something done _____ us.**

- **WHY "CRUCIFY" AND NOT JUST "KILL"?**
  - Crucifixion was DECISIVE… PAINFUL… SLOW.
  - *Luke 9:23 (NLT)… If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*

- **YOU CAN NAIL 1 HAND… BUT YOU CAN'T NAIL THE 2ND.**
  - *Romans 8:13 (NLT)… But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.*
    - **It is MY decision… but it is HIS _____.**

- **ONCE IT'S NAILED… STOP BRINGING IT SNACKS.**
  - *Romans 13:14 (NKJV)… But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*
    - **You can't crucify what you keep _____.**

KEEP IN STEP

Galatians 5:25 (NLT)… Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- **IF THE SPIRIT GAVE YOU LIFE… LET HIM DIRECT YOUR STEPS.**

- **"FOLLOW THE SPIRIT'S LEADING"**
  - **STOICHEŌ** *(stoy-keh-oh)* **=** to walk in line… to march in rank… to keep in _____.
    - **You WILL line up with something… the rows of rules, or the Holy Spirit.**

EMPTY GLORY

Galatians 5:26 (NLT)… Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- **THE DEVIL'S LAST MOVE ON SPIRIT-FILLED PEOPLE IS TO MAKE THEM PROUD OF BEING SPIRIT-FILLED.**

- **“CONCEITED”**
  - **KENODOXOS** *(ken-oh-dox-os)* **=** KENOS (empty) + DOXA (glory)… EMPTY GLORY.
  - Conceit is chasing a glory that is EMPTY… and stealing a glory that is _____.

- **CONCEIT SHOWS UP 2 WAYS…**
  - PROVOKE = to call out… to challenge to a fight. That is pride looking DOWN.
  - ENVY… that is pride looking UP.
  - *Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)… We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.*
    - **You can’t keep in step with the Spirit while you’re watching everybody else’s _____.**