



FIGHTING FOR

JOY

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground shows a valley with green fields and a winding road. The middle ground features several mountain peaks, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The background consists of numerous layers of mountain ranges, creating a sense of depth and scale. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and greys, with a soft, hazy atmosphere.

LIVING IN FREEDOM

LEADS TO

JOY

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 (NIV 1984)

Be joyful always.

ROMANS 12:12A (NIV 1984)

Be joyful in hope.

Living in Freedom leads to Joy

Galatians 5:13-26 (page 1773)

Living in Freedom leads to Joy

Living in Freedom leads to Joy

- Living in freedom requires a choice
- Living in freedom requires a brutal death
- Living in freedom requires you to live in step with the Spirit

Living in Freedom requires a choice

Galatians 5:13-16

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. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Living in Freedom requires a choice

- We can choose to live a life directed towards gratifying our cravings and desires (v. 13 and 17)
- We can choose to live as God created us to love and serve others (13)
- The results of our choice are obvious (v.19-22)

Galatians 5:19-23

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Living in Freedom requires a choice

Works of the flesh produce all manner of evil and unrest while Freedom produces joy and every characteristic of godliness (virtue).

Living in Freedom requires a choice

When we choose to walk in freedom, when godliness flows from our Spirit-saturated hearts, we experience joy!

Living in Freedom leads to Joy

- Living in freedom requires a choice
- **Living in freedom requires a brutal death**

Living in Freedom requires a brutal death

- Gal. 5:24 – “Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh and its passions and desires”
- Col. 3:5 – “Put to death whatever belongs of your earthly nature...”

Living in Freedom requires a brutal death

The cravings and compulsions of the flesh are strong and must be put to death. **Sin needs to be put to death, not the body.** To experience the fullness of love, joy, peace, etc requires an exclusive allegiance to Christ.

Living in Freedom requires a brutal death

Major Application 1

“All of life is repentance and faith.” - Martin Luther

Therefore, turning from sin and trusting in the good news that Jesus saves sinners isn't merely a one-time inaugural experience but the daily substance of Christianity. The gospel is for everyday and every moment. Repentance is to be the Christian's continual posture.

Living in Freedom requires a brutal death

To not obey the command to put sin to death continually is to live a miserable Christian life.

Living in Freedom leads to Joy

- Living in freedom requires a choice
- Living in freedom requires a brutal death
- **Living in freedom requires you to live in step with the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:25

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 4:1-7

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Living in Freedom requires you to live in step with the Spirit

To live in step with the Spirit requires you to recognize that you are a spiritual child of Christ. The Spirit of the Son is in the hearts of every Christian and we are to listen to Him. We are to live as adult children of God.

Living in Freedom requires you to live in step with the Spirit

Main Application 2

Commit to the lifestyle of the ordinary Christian. Walking in the Spirit or walking in freedom is not super mystical, it's very doable if you are **devoted** to Christ.

Acts 2:42-27

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together **with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.** And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Living in Freedom requires you to walk in step with the Spirit

Main Application 2

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Commit to genuine fellowship in the formational community.

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It's a new day. The choice of joy is yours.

Max Lucado

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