

Group/Individual Study

Series: "Be Free" - True and lasting change

Passages: Galatians 5:16-26, John 5:5-8

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 3/26

1. Read Galatians 5:16-26. How is being changed by God's Spirit within you different than just trying to follow a bunch of religious rules? What "aha's" occur to you about this? What confuses you?
2. There are two very different lists in our passage: "the **works** of the flesh" and "the **fruit** of the Spirit." Is there significance to the fact that one list is called "works" and the other is called "fruit"? How is the "fruit of the Spirit" different than a "to do list" we try to achieve in our own strength?
3. Compare Galatians 5:22-23 to John 15:5-8. What does John 15:5-8 add to your understanding of how we live into Galatians 5:22-23?
4. Gary often says, "God wants something **for** us, not something **from** us." Think of what it would be like to live into the opposite of the fruit of the spirit: instead of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control, a person would be hateful, miserable, agitated, impatient, cruel, evil, unfaithful, brutal, and out of control. How much fun would it be to live that way? How much fun would it be to hang out with someone like that? Thank God for the love He has for you to save you from that type of existence!
5. Gary said an interesting thing in his message: "Gardeners don't actually make seeds grow; they just create the conditions under which growth tends to happen." How can you create the conditions under which the seed of God's Spirit and influence tends to grow in your life?