**The Path to Freedom**

**Galatians 5:16-18**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
* **The Wrong Compromise (Galatians 2:11-15)**
* **Living by Faith (Galatian 2:17-21)**
* **Faith Over Flesh (Galatians 3:1-14)**
* **Why Grace Still Reigns (Galatians 3:15-25)**
* **Living as Heirs in Christ (Galatians 3:26-4:7)**
* **Personal Plea (Galatians 4:8-20)**
* **Living in Freedom (Galatians 4:21-5:1)**
* **Standing Firm in Freedom (Galatians 5:2-12)**
* **Freedom to Love (Galatians 5:13-15)**
  + **The Gift of Freedom (v. 13a)**
  + **Danger of Misusing Freedom (v. 13b)**
  + **The Call to Serve in Love (v. 13c-14)**
  + **Consequences of Division (v. 15)**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 5:16-18**
* **Today we begin a journey-a spiritual expedition toward true freedom. Not the kind of freedom the world offers, which often leads to bondage disguised as liberty, but the kind of freedom that comes from walking in step with the Spirit of God.**
* **This passage is a wake-up call. It reminds us that freedom in Christ is not a license to indulge the flesh, but a call to live by the Spirit. It is not passive-it is a daily choice, a deliberate walk.**
* **Imagine standing at a crossroads. One path is wide, paved with self-indulgence, pride, and temporary pleasures. The other is narrow, sometimes steep, but it is lined with grace, peace, and the presence of God. The wide path feels free-but it leads to chains. The narrow path feels costly-but it leads to life.**
* **True freedom is not found in doing whatever we please. It is found in surrendering to the Spirit, who leads us away from the destructive desires of the flesh and into the abundant life of Christ.**
* **Over the next few moments, we will explore:**
  + **What it means to walk by the Spirit**
  + **Why the flesh and Spirit are at war.**
  + **How being led by the Spirit frees us from the burden of the law.**
* **Let us open our hearts today-not just to hear Paul’s words, but to respond. Because the path to freedom is not just a concept-it is a calling.**

1. **The Call to Walk in the Spirit (v. 16)**
   1. **Definition of “walk”: A continuous, daily lifestyle of dependence on the Holy Spirit.**
   2. **Promise: Walking by the Spirit leads to victory over sinful desires.**
   3. **Application: Spiritual growth is not about trying harder but trusting deeper.**
   4. **Romans 8:14: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**
2. **The Conflict Within (v. 17)**
   1. **The Flesh vs the Spirit (Romans 7)**
   2. **Nature of the Battle:**
      1. **Flesh Seeks Self-Gratification**
      2. **Spirit Seeks God-Glorification**
   3. **Reality Check: This conflict is normal for Christians-it’s evidence of spiritual life.**
   4. **Romans 7**
   5. **Romans 8:5: Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the spirit.**
   6. **1 Peter 2:11: Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.**
   7. **James 4:1: What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?**
3. **The Freedom of Being Led by the Spirit (v. 18).**
   1. **Not under the Law: Freedom from legalism and condemnation.**
   2. **Led by the Spirit:**
      1. **Means surrender, not control.**
      2. **It means guidance, not guilt.**
   3. **Contrast: Law demands; Spirit Empowers.**
   4. **Romans 8:12-13: Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature you will live.**
   5. **John 15:4: Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the fine and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.**

**Conclusion:**

* **Freedom in Christ is not merely the absence of bondage-it is the presence of purpose, peace, and power. As we have explored today, Jesus calls us to a radical kind of liberty: one that begins with surrender. By denying ourselves, taking up our cross daily, and following Hm wholeheartedly, we step into a life that is no longer defined by fear, guilt, or worldly expectations.**
* **This path is not easy. It demands daily commitment, courage, and a willingness to be transformed. But it is the only path that leads to true fulfillment. Like the rich young ruler, we must ask ourselves: what are we holding onto that keeps us from walking freely with Christ?**
* **So let us not settle for declarations of intent. Let us live out our discipleship with boldness and joy. Because in Christ, freedom is not just a destination-it is a daily journey. And every step we take with Him leads us closer to the life we were created to live.**