



Raised to New Life in The Spirit!

The saving and renewing work of **God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit** is truly amazing and awesome! Last week we saw how we can identify with the death of Jesus and “consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God”. Now we move into living out of the power of Jesus’ Resurrection by receiving new life by The Spirit’s presence in me...

You can use the back side of this paper to redraw the “circles” diagram that Pastor Scott shares in the video as a reference

- **Group discussion:** Many Christians, and even unbelievers, have heard that Christ died to forgive our sins. This is a vital truth! But equally important is that God gives us new life through His Spirit so that we are renewed to live in the image of God that we were created for. In your group, share how this understanding of New Life in the Spirit can bring freedom, joy, order, and purpose to our daily lives!

Living a New Life in Jesus Christ:

- In this week’s readings, the New Testament describes two ways of living - through the strength of my flesh, or through the power of God’s Spirit. A good way to understand this is to ask where my motivations, drives, and ambitions come from - by figuring life out on my own with guidance from the world around me, or by knowing and obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit?
- **In Your Group, Read Ephesians 2:1-10**
- **Group Discussion: Ephesians 2:1-3** describes a life lived in the flesh. How is it portrayed? What powers, spiritual and natural, are at work?
- **Ephesians 2:4-10** describes the transformation when we leave the flesh behind and live through Christ. How is it portrayed? What powers, spiritual and natural, are at work?
- **Read Galatians 5:13-15**
- **Group Discussion:** How would most people describe freedom in our culture? Maybe something like “doing what I want”, or “following my own path”. But how does Paul describe Christian freedom? What phrase does he quote from Jesus?
- **Read Galatians 5:16-21 - The WORKS of the Flesh**
- **Group Discussion:** Paul now lists examples of living by the Flesh from the first-century world. Do ANY of these issues still exist in our culture 2,000 years later? Do ALL of them?!? Why do you think Paul calls these “works” (Greek = erga)?
- **Read Galatians 5:22-25 - The FRUIT of The Spirit**
- **Group Discussion:** Paul gives a new list - the outflow of a life lived by **abiding** in the Spirit of Christ. (recall Pastor Tim’s sermon about John 15!)
- Why do you think Paul calls these “fruit” (Greek - karpos)? Note that the word is singular, not plural (fruits), meaning that we don’t pick and choose our favorites, but rather that all of these are active in our life when we are being guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Paul concludes in verse 25, “if we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.” This implies that all believers are ALIVE in the Spirit by faith in Christ, but that we can willfully CHOOSE to keep walking by our own flesh or to daily surrender to the Spirit. Discuss how can we let the Spirit be our daily guide instead of leaning on our flesh? (We will continue exploring this question in the coming weeks!)

EN-CORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

Spiritual Health in Practice

Our culture implies that “following your heart” and “living your Best Life” is really about choosing your own identity and taking care of your own needs. Does this seem to produce happiness, joy, order, and purpose for people? Maybe in the short-term, but what about lasting satisfaction? Discuss this in your group.

Close with Prayer for One Another

Pray for one another to let go of fleshly reactions and replace them with the fruit of the Spirit. Share with your group how they can pray for you in this!