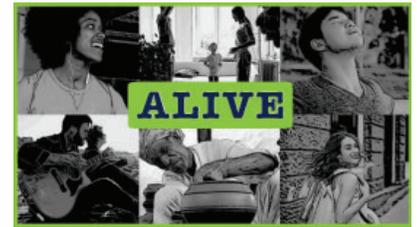


DAILY READING PLAN

Week of June 12, 2022

Alive: Moving with the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-25



Day One: Read John 3:5-8

⁵ Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. ⁷ So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

- Jesus likens the Holy Spirit to the wind. The beautiful thing about metaphors like this is that they are expansive. The more you ponder them, the more you see. What does this metaphor imply about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life? See how many implications you can list.

Day Two: Read Galatians 5:16-18

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

- Paul contrasts our sinful nature with the desires of the Spirit. How do you experience this inner conflict? How do you distinguish your sinful nature from the desires of the Spirit in you?

Day Three: Read Galatians 5:16-18 (again!)

- Paul says, "Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives." How does that happen in your life? Is there an area of your life that you'd like the Spirit to guide more? Ask the Spirit for help!

Day Four: Read Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ 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.

- Paul offers quite a list of the behaviors and attitudes of our sinful nature. If you can, read and compare this passage in a couple of different translations to catch the nuances of Paul's words. Do you recognize anything on this list in your own life? Spend some time today with God in a prayer of confession.

Day Five: Read Galatians 5:22-25

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- Notice that Paul uses the singular "fruit" when he describes what the Spirit produces in our lives. The characteristics that Paul lists are all manifestations of the Spirit's work within us. Which of these characteristics would you like to experience more of in your own life? Spend some time today with God in prayer, asking for what you need.