

MEMORY VERSE

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be
burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1



RETURNING TO THE GOOD STORY

DAY 1

What's the story in which you're living? Is it more of a story of random events with no real direction? Or is there a predominate theme?

If so, what is it? Who (or what) is the hero in your story?

Is your story an independent one or part of a bigger story?

TAKE time to **THINK** about these questions.

How would you describe the story in which you're living?

The book of Galatians is fueled by this central question:

WHY WOULD WE LIVE IN ANY STORY OTHER THAN GOD'S STORY?

The Apostle Paul answers his own question with a reminder of what it means to live God's Story as opposed to any other.

READ Galatians 5:1.

READ the verse several times aloud.

READ the paraphrase of the verse below:

It's for freedom to live and be a part of God's Story
that Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, then, and don't let yourselves be enslaved
and oppressed again by living any other story.

PRAY

*Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus,
who provided the freedom
for me to stand before You as one of your own,
and also the freedom to follow Christ
and to become a part of Your story.
Open my eyes to any story in which I live apart from Yours.*

MEMORIZE Galatians 5:1 this week.

DAYS 2-5

READ the book of Galatians. You may want to divide the book by reading two chapters each day for the next four days.

As you read, keep in mind the central question:

WHY WOULD WE LIVE IN ANY STORY OTHER THAN GOD'S STORY?

LOOK for the major themes which Pastor Paul outlined in the book:

- *God's Story of FAITH and the story of LAW*
- *God's Story of IDENTITY from the story of NONENTITY*
(somebody regarded as unimportant, powerless, or insignificant)
- *God's Story of FREEDOM or the story of SLAVERY*
- *God's Story of the SPIRIT vs. the story of the FLESH*

As you prepare to read each day, **INVITE** the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Scriptures. **ASK** for insight and wisdom to understand what it means to be a part of the Gospel (God's Story) and to live your life as a part of that Story. **ASK** for courage to begin to identify other *stories* you may have allowed to take you off course.

Before you begin reading, **WRITE** out this week's memory verse [Galatians 5:1] in your journal.

Once you've completed your reading for the day, **TAKE** time to **JOT** down any thoughts, insights, or questions you've written in your journal. **CONCLUDE** your time by personalizing Day 1's paraphrased version of Galatians 5:1 as a prayer of thanksgiving and personal commitment.

BONUS DAY

If your life were a movie, what would be the plot?
What would people see in the movie trailer/preview?

READ the following blog entry from Bill Tinsley entitled *Kingdom Trailers*.

<http://reflectionscolumns.blogspot.com/2012/12/kingdom-trailers.html>