PART 5: FREEDOM, AND OUR FLESH

INTRODUCTION

As we start a brand new year it's exciting, but there's also something that feels unsettling. There's a tension going on inside of us that's emotionally and spiritually exhausting. Every day can feel like a battle to stay faithful to God, because we *are* in a battle. There is a war going on…it's a war on lies. It's not so much that we *tell* lies, but that we *live* them. But God gives us a strategy to recognize and resist the enemy and experience victory every day!

KEY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:1   John 8:31-32, 34
Galatians 5:13-17, 19-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "freedom?"

2. Read Galatians 5:1, 5:16-17. What is the connection between freedom and slavery?

3. Pastor Will talked about how the misunderstanding of freedom can lead to slavery. Without a proper understanding of freedom, we over-indulge and become enslaved to our sin. How have you seen freedom turn to slavery?

4. We have the freedom to make our own choices. But, the choices we make will shape the trajectory of our souls and our society. With Galatians 5:19-25 in mind, what choices are you making? What things do you need to put away? What things do you need to pursue?

5. Pastor Will said that we "first have to become the kind of person who is free *internally*, so you can enjoy freedom *externally*." To gain intimacy, we have to give up our autonomy, we have to learn how to serve and love other people. How will you put the needs of others above your own desires this week? Where do you need to start putting this into practice?

6. Read John 8:31-32. We are called to live in truth, which leads to freedom. How can you remind yourself of the truth of Scripture, rather than the desires of your flesh? How can we, as a small group, help you identify the truth and help you step into freedom?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Jesus, help me to crucify my flesh (sinful nature). Teach me to walk in step with your Spirit.