

Looking ahead...

Next week, we will be thinking about the theme of “**Adversity**” while focusing mainly on James 1 and Hebrews 12. As Christ-followers, how we respond to various difficulties in our lives affects all of our relationships (including our relationship with God). When we respond to *adversity* in ‘more mature’ ways, as our heavenly Father desires, we are able to experience the ‘blessings’ of a richer closeness with God and deeper relationships with each other.

Readings to prepare for the coming week:

___DAY 1 (September 30): 1 Peter 1:3-7

___DAY 2 (October 1): 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

___DAY 3 (October 2): 1 Peter 4:12-16

___DAY 4 (October 3): Romans 8:18-25

___DAY 5 (October 4): Hebrews 12:7-11

___DAY 6 (October 5): Romans 5:1-5



Attitudes

Week Four

During the week beginning with September 29, we will consider the theme of “**Attitudes**” in the book of *Galatians*. **Attitudes** affect all that we do. We spend our lives in one *attitude* or another. What does it mean to have a ‘godly’ or ‘right’ *attitude* in life? We are going to look at what the Holy Spirit does in our lives. Our battle against sin begins with our reliance on the Holy Spirit. We need to “*live by*” the Spirit and “*keep in step*” with the Spirit. God is taking away our ‘fairness’ and giving us the kind of *attitudes* we need to have.

Making it personal...

Which observation(s) from Sunday's sermon do you feel the need to apply to your life (see below)?

(Keeping in step with the Spirit leads your momentary attitudes; Keeping in step with the Spirit means saying 'No' to the flesh; Keeping in step with the Spirit produces godly attitudes; Keeping in step with the Spirit is: 1. Listening to the Spirit and 2. Obeying the Spirit.)

How would applying these affect your coming week?

Which attitude do you struggle with the most?

What do you find yourself focusing on: the rule of the law or the spirit of the law? Why? How is that affecting your attitudes in your individual circles?

What are *your* current attitudes in *your* three life circles? How **can** you *keep in step with the Spirit* in your family circle? Your school/work circle? Your community circle?

What is the most difficult part of *stepping in the Spirit* for you right now? (*Stepping in the Spirit* is listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit).

In your interactions with others, when are you tempted to fall back into the "old you" by living in the flesh? Why do you think that is? Are you trying to produce the *fruit of the Spirit* in your own strength? Why do you think you are (or are not)? (You know you are trying "on your own" if you keep thinking, "I need to have more"... instead of asking the Holy Spirit for more).

What area(s) do you need to ask God to give you the ability to have 'Godly Attitudes' in your 3 life circles more consistently?

How can you 'live out' the fruit of the Spirit in your 3 life circles?

In your SonLight Circle, write down 3 people who you need to change your attitude toward and exchange your list with another person in your circle. Pray for each other to *keep in step with the Spirit* by listening and obeying the Holy Spirit. Pray your 3 people would have faith in Jesus Christ, His sacrifice for their sins, and His resurrection from the dead. Pray for each person's life circles (Family, School/Work, Community) to be transformed through letting God cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.