



SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) December 2022 – January 2023

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Friday, January 13, 2023

Scripture: Galatians 5:5-10

TITLE: Don't Quit!

I love coaching youth football. I never played football, but I love spending quality time with my kids, and I love developing in them three things: First are the fundamentals. We talk about what you need to know to play football. These are just the basics, but if they can't master the basics they can't master the game. Second, we talk about fun. I want their experience on the field and off to be fun. If they can't have fun, they probably should quit. And third, I want to develop character. Character is what ultimately matters, because they may not play football in the future, but their character will and should follow them into every area of life.

One key area of character is the desire to not quit. My oldest son entered junior high football this year and he wanted to quit many times. But I reminded him, "You are developing character so you will finish what you start, no matter how hard it is." You know, we have to develop that kind of character in our Christian lives. Why do we need this? That's what we want to talk about in today's message. Galatians 5:5-10 (ESV) says this:

For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is.

We see in verse 7, Paul says, "You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?" You see, the Galatian Christians were running at the right pace in the right lane, but then they stopped, and they turned around and started running backwards. And Paul is saying, "Why did you stop? You're not supposed to quit. You are supposed to keep running in the lane that God has put you on." And then he asked, "Who hindered you?" In other words, who or what has influenced you to quit?

Well what were they quitting? The Gospel. That's what the book of Galatians is all about: Knowing and living out the truth of the Gospel. The Gospel message says that Jesus Christ came and died so that we might have life. Salvation comes as a gift from God, and not something we can earn. The problem is, many of us don't really believe it. It goes against what we truly believe.

We believe that we can be good enough for God; that we can earn our way to God; so we can play the game of religion, and it means something.

We are constantly being influenced to abandon the truth of the Bible. We are constantly being influenced to quit in what God has started in us. This can happen by our adding works to Salvation, but it can also happen by us removing the power of the Gospel. Where is it in your life today that you are compromising your character? Where is it that you are quitting in what God has called you to do or to be?

God is the giver of all things. The Bible says He pours out grace upon grace to us. But are you being greedy? Is that how you quit? God saved you on purpose for a purpose. That purpose is to make disciples who make disciples. But have you quit? Are you sitting on your couch watching Netflix and YouTube, while the neighbors around you are perishing?

When God saves you, He puts you on a path, and in that path you grow spiritually. But are you feeling spiritually stuck? Have you stopped reading your Bible? Have you stopped engaging God's Word? If so, I can bet your life is not being transformed.

Today, God urges you to come back to the Bible. Come back to God's playbook, and don't quit. Wherever it is that you are being influenced to quit in moving closer to Jesus, God says, "Don't do it. I'm here for you. It is worth it. Let Me help you to start again." Today, yell, "I will not quit!" and begin moving today.