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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Grace is free, unmerited favor of God, working on our mind and heart to change lives.

HEAD CHANGE: We are too sinful to contribute to our salvation. **HEART CHANGE:** We are saved by belief in Jesus' work plus nothing else.

LIFE CHANGE: We do not live God's way to become His children, but out of gratitude that we are already God's children.

OVERVIEW

Life With the Spirit

Without an experience of grace, all our good deeds are essentially self-interested, impersonal, and conditional. We do "the right thing" in order to get into heaven, or in order to better our self-esteem. But people who know they are totally accepted already do "the right thing" out of grateful love. "Neither circumcision (religion) or uncircumcision (irreligion) has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (Gal. 5:6). Only in the gospel do you obey God for God's sake and not for what God may give. Therefore, only in the gospel can a person love others for their sake, do good for its own sake, and obey God for His sake. Only the gospel makes "doing the right thing" a joy and delight, not a burden or a means to an end.

"But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses."

-Galatians 5:18 (NLT)-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What stood out to you in this teaching? Why do you think that resonated with you?
- 2. When or in what ways have you gotten off the track in the "good race" of the Christian life? What are you relying on besides Christ?
- What do you think it means to be "led by the Spirit...not under the law" (Gal. 5:18)? How can you explain the difference between living under the Law and walking by the Spirit?
- 4. In what areas of your life are you having the most trouble "following the Spirit?" How can we pray for you?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, we can't do any of this without You. Thank You for revealing the finished work of Jesus to us. May we live with a greater understanding of your grace and approval on our lives because of what Jesus has done. If there are any areas of our lives that are captured by pride, reveal that to me now, I repent and ask for your humility to walk with you and obey you in response to your love and grace toward me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!