

Discussion Starter: What single aspect, situation, or dynamic of your life today would be the most surprising/unbelievable for you if someone had told you ten years ago that it would happen to you (*a change of heart/direction, a personal loss or triumph, a broken addiction/pattern, etc.*)?

Prayer

Key Passage: **Galatians 5:25**

Restate the verse in your own words.

Who is the Spirit (*for some key components of the conversation, check out this John Piper sermon, noting especially the section called "2 Essential Truths about the Holy Spirit" - <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/the-holy-spirit-he-is-god>*)?

Discussion Questions:

Pastor Ramel said, "It is impossible to become a Christian, and it is impossible to live the Christian life." What does a statement like that mean (*humanly impossible → only power of Holy Spirit makes it possible*)? While we may affirm this truth in theory, it is much harder to live – so how should this truth impact (a) your evangelism (b) your daily walk with Christ?

What does **Isaiah 65:1-2** reveal about your deepest desires toward God? When this passage is viewed alongside **Romans 5:6-8**, what do we learn about God's love for us? Is there a particular conversation that you had or heard (which explained becoming a Christian or living the Christian life) that you would re-word in light of these verses? How so?

What do you think is the best, kindest, most selfless action that a person can do (*make a list and try to come to a consensus top choice*)? Read **Galatians 3:1-5** and **Romans 8:7-9**. Discuss specific examples of how sin, pride, selfishness, etc. can creep into even the most noble of human actions, such as the list your group just made. How can we be sure that God is pleased with our actions and/or choices?

Make a list of the things that change for a person when he/she gets married. What does it say about the relationship if one of the partners feels that these changes are a burdensome "to-do" list? Apply this analogy to your relationship with Christ – what changes when you trust in Christ, and what does it say about the relationship if it becomes defined by a burdensome "to-do" list?

As a group, try to recall the 4 practical steps toward living by the Spirit from Pastor Ramel's sermon (point III). Why is it so important that step C is NOT step A? Which of these 4 steps will be the hardest for you to incorporate into your spiritual walk in a way that is not just routine or nominal?