

Galatians 5:25 – 6:5

New American Standard Version

1 ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let
2 us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one
3 another. ^{6:1} Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass,
4 you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of
5 gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will
6 not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby
7 fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is
8 something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But
9 each one must examine his own work, and then he will have
10 *reason for* boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in
11 regard to another. ⁵ For each one will bear his own load.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

See suggested questions on the back.

- Circle repeated words or phrases or ideas.
- What comparisons or contrasts do you see?
- What unusual phrases get your attention?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What questions come to mind as you read?

See suggested questions on the back.

- What is the difference (if any) between “living” and “walking” in v. 25?
- What is the difference (if any) between “boastful” (v. 26) and “boasting” (v. 4)? Why is one bad and the other OK?
- How are “challenging” and “envying” (v. 26) aspects of “boasting”?
- What is the difference between a “burden” (v. 2) and a “load” (v. 5)?
- Are these Paul's random thoughts, or is there a flow in what he is saying? How do the different statements relate to each other?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Where in your life would you most like to improve your walking by the Spirit?
- Have you ever experienced someone bearing a burden in your life? How did they do that?
- What burden do you most need help “bearing”? What would it look like for someone to meaningfully bear your burden?
- What else in this passage has application in your life right now?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)