

Galatians 5:1 - 7

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,
2 and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

How would you explore this passage?

- To understand it yourself?
- To explain it to someone?
- To lead others through it?

3 ²Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision,
4 Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³I testify again to
5 every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to
6 keep the whole law. ⁴You are severed from Christ, you
7 who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away
8 from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves
9 eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ
10 Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for
11 anything, but only faith working through love.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

12 ⁷You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying
13 the truth?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage, what questions do you have?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

How might the passage affect you? How might you help others see application to their lives?

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)