

GOD OF FREEDOM

THE GOD OF GALATIANS



YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Isn't it obvious...I spend more time working on self-improvement than most of the other people here!
2. The reason why most people become good at things is because they spend an incredible amount of time perfecting their craft.
3. It is a challenge for most church members to be more loving and gentle with the people around us.
4. If you want to be more patient, you should pray for patience.
5. God does not want you to work on improving the Fruit of the Spirit in your life.

Dig DEEPER

- How do most people today approach personal self-improvement? And what seems to be the biggest detractor from their success?

➤ READ Galatians 5:16-23 (NLT)

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

» 16 guide - peripateo (περιπατέω) which means literally "to walk about."

- « What does God say in verses 16-18 is the key to overcoming your cravings?
 - How can you change your desires completely?
 - Is this a one-time fix?

NOTES

DIG DEEPER... CONTINUED

» **19 The Results** - hatina (ἅτινα), here relative and indefinite pronouns are combined into one word, meaning literally “which.” That is, all the works of the flesh are not here listed, but enough of them are to get the picture.

« How can you tell if the Holy Spirit is with you or not?

» **22 Who Produces?** - estin (ἐστιν), to possess certain characteristics, to be.

« According to this, how can you become more loving, joy-filled, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled?

» **What Does God Want?** - How does this approach to personal, spiritual improvement paint a much different picture of God than the one you might have grown up with?



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MY PRAYER...

1. How can I let the Holy Spirit change some of my recurring cravings?
2. What can I do to reprogram my typical approach to having the fruit of the Spirit?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?