

The Prize

Part One: *Help! I'm Dying Here.*

September 18, 2022

Whether it's your birthday or a new year or just another average day in your life, you're probably hoping your life will be **different** in some way. *Why is it so difficult to make the change we want to see in our lives?*

The Apostle Paul writes about the struggle Christians go through. Romans 7:15, 18-19, 24 NLT

The "I'm Bad" Cycle Galatians 5:17

We need help, and we're not going to find it in grades, girlfriends or a self-help guru.



- You're not missing **something**,
You're missing **Someone!** Romans 7:24-25
- When nothing else **works**, **walk** by the Spirit. Galatians 5:16

The reward of our flesh is **immediate** and **fleeting**. The reward of the Spirit is **pervasive** and **long lasting**. We're not shame driven, we're Spirit-led. We're not striving *for results*—living *from identity!*

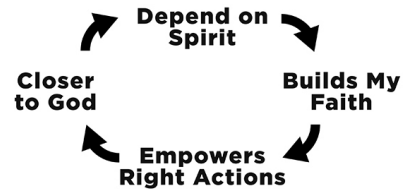
The "I belong to Jesus" Cycle — Our **action** follows our **belonging**.

- **Let** the Holy Spirit guide you! Galatians 5:16

How do you let the Spirit guide your life?

- 1) **Meditate** on what God has said in the Scriptures Ephesians 5:18-19
- 2) **Obey** the Scriptures John 14:22-23

I Belong to Jesus



What happens when you let the Spirit have access?

The Spirit produces fruit in us, one of them being **self-control!** Galatians 5:22-23

Discipline is choosing what you want *most* over what you want *now*. Stop **Trying**. Start **Training!** **Training is:** doing what I can do **today** to enable me to do even more **tomorrow**. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Trying is an attempt with minimal commitment. It almost feels like you intend to fail. Training is a wholehearted commitment to achieve a specific result.

Paul is saying that as an athlete, runs, it's not just what he does, it's who he is. It's a label! Christians are Christ's. We ought to act in a way that lines up with who we are. We are chosen by God to produce all kinds of fruit and to run to win the prize to which He has called us!