

Free to be Series  
“Freedom Fighters”  
Galatians 2:1-21

### **Fighting with a band of brothers.**

*Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too. I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile.*

Galatians 2:1-3 (NLT)

*When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.*

Acts 9:26-27 (NLT)

*I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share.*

Titus 1:4a (NLT)

### **Fighting against false followers.**

*Even that question came up only because of some so-called believers there — false ones, really — who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations. But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you.*

Galatians 2:4-5 (NLT)

*While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.*

Acts 15:1-2 (NLT)

*Then God said to Abraham, “Your responsibility is to obey the terms of the covenant. You and all your descendants have this continual responsibility. This is the covenant that you and your descendants must keep: Each male among you must be circumcised. You must cut off the flesh of your foreskin as a sign of the covenant between me and you.*

Genesis 17:9-11 (NLT)

### **Fighting for the Gentiles & the poor.**

*In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.*

Galatians 2:6-10 (NLT)

### **Fighting hypocrisy.**

*But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn’t eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter’s hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.*

Galatians 2:11-13 (NLT)

### **Fear leads to hypocrisy.**

*When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"*

*"You and I are Jews by birth, not 'sinners' like the Gentiles. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law."*

Galatians 2:14-16 (NLT)

*But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good*

Romans 7:12 (NLT)

## **Fighting for freedom from the Law.**

*For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law - I stopped trying to meet all its requirements - so that I might live for God. My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.*

Galatians 2:19-21 (NLT)

## **The law says do! Grace says done!**

*And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*

Romans 11:6 (NIV)

## **SO WHAT?**

### **The fight goes on...**

**Who will you fight with?**

**What will you fight for?**

## **Growth Group Questions**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is your favorite epic war movie and why?
2. When you are deciding if you are going to get into a fight with someone about something, how do you decide to fight or let it go?

Give an example of a time you just had to fight, or you decided to let it go.

3. Barnabas means "Son of encouragement". Who has been an encouragement to you in your spiritual journey?
4. Read Galatians 2:4-5. Who are some people who either are or at one time have worked against your spiritual growth? How did you respond to that?
5. Re-read Galatians 2:19-21. What does it mean for you to have your "*old self crucified with Christ*"?

What does it mean for you to have "*Christ live in me*"?

6. What are some legalistic things that you struggle with letting go of? (or you tend to judge others about.)
7. The fight goes on, share who you will fight with (alongside) and what you will fight for when it comes to your faith.