

# FireStarters

Presented by ICBC



FireStarters is a collaborative blog devotional, curated by the leadership team at Indian Creek Baptist Camp

We hope you enjoy our thoughts, passions, honesty, and expression of the impact Jesus has had, and continues to have in our lives. We have all been impacted by the ministry of Indian Creek, and this is our effort to give back. any questions or comments can be directed to [indiancreek@abc-indiana.org](mailto:indiancreek@abc-indiana.org)

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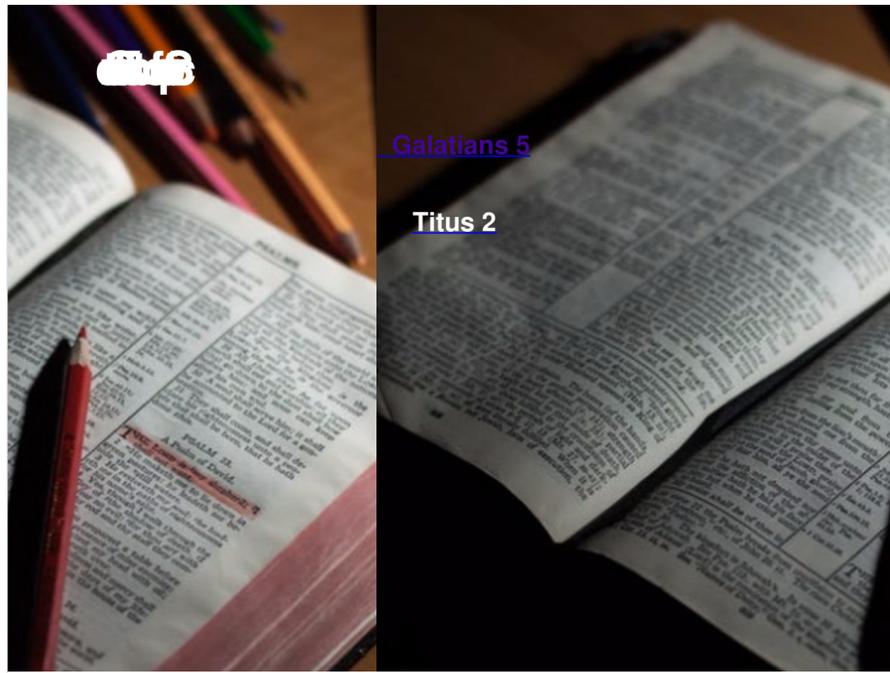


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The Campfire





**Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free, therefore keep standing firm, and do not return to a yoke of slavery.**

Returning to a yoke of slavery sounds harsh when you understand that its talking about our actions of every day life. (Though it is not near as harsh as the language used just a few verses later for what Paul wishes some people would do)

Do you consider you sin, and the every day trappings of life slavery? Are you a slave to a specific sin? I think we miss true burden of our sin when we neglect recognizing our slavery too it.

I think too that if we were more burdened by our sin, and its effects on the whole of our lives, we might be more convinced to enact the Self-Control that the Spirit gives us freely.

Sin, whether we are talking about the broad sin that we all live in, or very specific sins that your probably thinking about right now, is a self imposed slavery. We're the ones who set those chains and lock ourselves in what seems like a never ending cycle of hurt, pain, grief, and strife.

Instead, as we will see with every part of the Fruit of the Spirit, we should walk in Self-Control.

The yoke of sin says keep it a secret --- Self-Control says find a person who will pray with your through sin instead of condemning you for it.

Sin says "try to justify it in moderation" -- The Spirit says "Justice can be found at the Cross"

The Flesh says "It's not that bad, and it makes you feel better for a moment" -- The Spirit says "I can offer you satisfaction and joy that are unsurpassed"

In the end, our Flesh is utterly reprehensible, evil to the core, selfish and rotten...but the Spirit that leads us if Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.



As Christians, we should be in constant battle internally.

Our Flesh, the corrupted sinful nature of our Soul vs. the Spirit of God living through us.

We live in a world that is inherently self-indulgent, self-centered, and self-satisfied.

We have since birth set our selves us as the greatest idol of all.

Allistair Begg says, **"When we sin, whatever was the object of our mistaken pleasure, we loved that more than we loved God...Either we are worshiping at the shrine of our own appetites desires, or we're worshiping at the foot of the Cross where Jesus bore our punishment in order that we might live in that kind of freedom.**

**"When we do that, we're declaring that God is not enough for us. Therefore we've decided that we're going to have to find our satisfaction, somewhere or in someone other than God. What we're really saying is, 'I cannot be satisfied by you God, I've got to find satisfaction somewhere else, the boundaries that You've set for me are restricting boundaries...I know that You would like this but...'**



Self-Effort becomes the disguise of Self-Control .

Self-Effort, apart from dependence on Christ, is  
entirely Self-Focused

Self-Control is ultimately the exercise to do what is right, despite our desires.

This is always a battle against self. This isn't about fighting temptation. You and I would be just as tempted to sin if we lived by ourselves on the top of Mount Everest, as we would be in the heart of the Strip in Las Vegas.

The battle isn't against what's around us, it is against the sin nature within us.

How does Self-Control become a normal thing for you?

### **The Challenge - But Why**

Why should we live in Self-Control? Why should we obey the Word and Will of God? Why should we constantly be fighting against our sinful nature, and becoming more like Christ in our daily thoughts, words, and actions?

To bring Glory to God the Father.

We don't obey because we have to follow a set of rules so that we get to Heaven by our own merit and scholarship.

We obey out of gratitude to the One that saved us. We do what we ought to do, because He's saved us from what we shouldn't do.

This week, consider all He has done for you, and then consider if that choice you are about to make is worth saying to Him...."No Lord, this is more important than what you've done for me...I need this more than I need you."

Remain in Me, and I in you, and you will bear much Fruit  
For the Fruit of the Spirit is: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,  
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control



October's blogs will cover Gentleness. Look for the first October FireStarter near October 15th. Click the link below to visit our website and the FireStarter Archive

[Go to the Website](#)

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We hope you found this FireStarter powerful.  
May it continue the fire in you, and start a fire for Jesus in all those around you.

questions or comments can be directed to  
[indiancreek@abc-indiana.org](mailto:indiancreek@abc-indiana.org)

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