



# Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Teacher: Beth Seifert

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## Day 16 Galatians 5:1-6

### ***All or Nothing***

Today, we're going to do a little "activity" to help us to consider what our actions really are revealing about our hearts, so bear with me today and remember: be honest in your answers. If there is sin that is revealed, repent of it, don't try to justify it or cover it up. Use this activity today to learn more about how our faith working through love should be lived out in our everyday lives.

For the following situations, take some time and consider what your thoughts and actions are when in these situations. Write down all the thoughts that would go through your head, as well as the words you might say and the actions you might take.

Situation 1: You come to a stoplight that is red. You're the 4<sup>th</sup> car back from the light. This light is at a busy intersection and is often a very long red light, but, due to cross traffic, not a very long green light. When the light changes from green to red, the 2<sup>nd</sup> car in line isn't paying attention and the driver doesn't proceed forward in time for you to make it through the light. What thoughts/words/actions would be your normal response?

Situation 2: You've been on your feet for the last 2 hours, cooking, cleaning and generally keeping life going. The kids are all playing nicely, no fights or quarrels to break up. You make yourself a cup of coffee (or tea or whatever your preference is) and settle into your favorite spot to sit for a few minutes with that book you've been reading. You just open the book when you hear your youngest child call for you from the bathroom: he is having trouble with the mechanics of "toilet paper application while trying not to fall into the large potty" and is asking (not demanding) your help. What thoughts/words/actions would be your normal response?

Situation 3: Your spouse forgot to tell you that he had gone out to lunch to meet with a co-worker yesterday, and, as a result, you discover (while in line to pay) that your bank account doesn't have enough money in it for you to purchase the groceries you need. What thoughts/words/actions would be your normal response?

Situation 4: You and your co-worker have been working hard on a project that is of huge importance to the company for weeks now. The day finally arrives to present this project to your boss and, as you do so, your boss finds a problem: a large error that will mean a lot of re-working of the project to make it usable. Your co-worker tells your boss that you were the one in charge of that portion and you are the one who should be responsible for the correction. The only problem is, this portion was not one that you were responsible for and you aren't even sure what the error is. What thoughts/words/actions would be your normal response?

Situation 5: A brother or sister in Christ says something without thinking that was extremely hurtful to you. While what they said wasn't sinful, they displayed a lack of concern for others in the way in which they spoke. What thoughts/words/actions would be your normal response?

Now, go back through your answers to these 5 situations. Can you identify any patterns of sin that might warrant further scrutiny? Perhaps your first thought in each of these situations was one that was focused on yourself and your own comfort before considering others? Perhaps careless words that are the initial response from you? Perhaps an action that displays where your heart really is focused? How do these reactions reflect on the faith you proclaim? Can you see your faith being worked out in love, or do you see something else? If you don't see faith working out in love in these situations, I would challenge you to pray about it, and, if there is a sin issue here? Repent. Then, the next time you are in these situations, make an effort to make your first reaction prayer to God for an appropriate response to whatever the situation is. If there is a situation that was brought to mind for you as you did this "activity", ask yourself these questions about that situation, too.

As you spend time with God today, just ask Him to help you to make seeking Him the first reaction to every trial or inconvenience in your life. Ask Him to help you to seek Him moment by moment as needed, to learn from His Spirit what it looks like to have your faith being worked out in love. Thank Him for His Spirit and thank Him for the process of sanctification that He continues to do in your life, knowing that He isn't done with you yet.