

# ONLY THE BROKEN

**Week 11 | Only The Broken | October 4, 2015**

## **Opening Up:**

- Tell of a time you exerted your will and it went well for you. (i.e. Where there is a will, there is a way.)
- Tell of a time when you applied your will and it did not go your way. (There was a will but it went no where.)

**Reference:** Galatians 5:16-26

## **Discuss:**

1. This text argues that there is a unique inner conflict that only believers who have received the Holy Spirit have. Have you experienced this battle between flesh and Spirit? What is it like?
2. Paul argues that battle inside of the Christian produces a deep desire to glorify God, yet there is an inability to fulfill that desire. Like Paul says in Romans, "I do not do what I want." Can you explain this conflict? What does it feel like to desire to do good, but not be able to pull it off?
3. When you look at the "works of the flesh," what stands out to you?
4. What are some "over-desires" of your flesh that need to be confessed? An "over-desire" can be a good thing that you have made an ultimate thing. It is this thing that you believe you need to have to feel good about yourself.
5. Respond to what John Stott says about crucifying the flesh. How do you relate to what Stott says?
  - "We must . . . actually see that the execution takes place. We are actually to take the flesh, our willful and wayward self, and (metaphorically speaking) nail it to the cross. This is Paul's graphic description of repentance . . . The first great secret of holiness lies in the degree and the decisiveness of our repentance . . . It is as if, having nailed our old nature to the cross, we keep wistfully returning to the scene of its execution. We begin to fondle it, to caress it, to long for its release, even to try to take it down again from the cross. We need to learn to leave it there." - John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*
6. The text calls us to crucify the flesh in community. We should be able to confess our sins, repent, and receive the gospel in community. What do you need to confess? How can you share the gospel with one another?
7. What fruit are you seeing in your life? Why is that fruit present? (Or what does the fruit say about the root?) How does this fruit compare to or contrast with the fruit of the Spirit? How can you get the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
8. How can you see the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life?
9. What do you need to do to better walk with and be led by the Spirit?
10. Pray.