



 NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER  
May 18, 2025

**TURNING BACK ISN'T  
THE WAY FORWARD**  
Pastor Dave Larson | Turlock  
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

*Galatians 4:8-20*

**1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? Galatians 4:8-9 (NLT)*

*We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. Romans 6:6 (NLT)*

*Pray... "That is not who I am anymore. I am not a slave—I am a child of God. I've been bought with a price. I walk in freedom."*

**2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.**

*Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. Galatians 4:19 (NLT)*

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

*Pray... "Jesus, form Yourself in me today. Don't just be beside me. Be within me. Shape who I am."*

**3. Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. Galatians 4:15 (NLT)*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalms 51:12 (NIV)*

*Pray... Thank You for Your grace, Your patience, and Your presence.*



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### 1. Don't TURN BACK.

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### 2. Be FORMED in Christ.

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### 3. Remember the JOY.

*Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt then? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible. Galatians 4:15 (NLT)*

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
MAY 18, 2025

## CONNECT

Share a time when you lost something? How did you ever find it?

## ENGAGE

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

## GROW

1. How does Paul describe his relationship with the Galatian believers in verses 12–20? What emotions or tone do you notice in Paul's words throughout this section of the letter?
2. What does Paul mean when he says, "now that God knows you," and why is that significant in our relationship with Him?
3. What does it mean to have "Christ formed in you," and how is that different from just following religious rules and commandments?
4. Where have you lost your joy in your faith journey, and what would it look like to return to it?
5. What are some specific "old chains" or ways of thinking that you are tempted to return to?

## LEAD (YOURSELF)

What spiritual practice—prayer, scripture reading, worship—do you need to re-engage in to help you stay in God's hands and grow in Christ?