

## Week One Heartwork: Performance Issues

*We all want to get it right, and we work hard to do and be right, don't we? We definitely have **Performance Issues!** We all have our reasons for wanting to "perform" well. Let's be honest, sometimes we just want to perform for ourselves (we like things done right); OR we want to perform well for others, to please them; OR we want to perform for God and please Him (and feel continually guilty that we don't). Probably, we each have a mixture of all those motives in different amounts at different times. So, we work really hard to perform; and then as we fall short, we give up, give in, and go with whatever we feel like--until we are motivated to give it another shot. A vicious, defeating cycle. Yep, we definitely have performance issues. Yet, God wants to shift our hearts to a completely different approach to performing. Paul addresses this exact issue in his letter to the Galatians who were being strongly influenced by a group insisting that they must obey the Jewish law to "get it right" and to grow and thrive spiritually. Let's zero in on the Heart Shift he lays out at the culmination of the book.*

Pray. Read the following passage and list your observations (aim for 20). You may find it helpful to read in one or two different translations.

### **Galatians 5:16-25**

**16** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. **19** The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**  
gentleness and self-control. Against such things  
there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus  
have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and  
desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in  
step with the Spirit.

*Sum Up what you saw in a sentence or two.*

*SPECK this passage to find a way to apply it in your life, especially in the area of how we are to go about living (or performing) in a God-honoring way.*