

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The yoke of bondage spoken of here is specifically speaking of the Old Testament law. Jesus said to come to Him; a person not a policy because His yoke is light (Mt 11:29).

The word standfast in Greek is *steko* and means stationary or standfirm. Paul is telling the Galatians and also us be set in Grace and not go back into a works mentality. He is admonishing this because it is easy to slip back into works. Actions are not bad and if we truly believe something there will be actions (works of faith) but our actions are the fruit not the root. The enemy goes about seeking whom he may devour and one of his greatest tools is legalism (1 Peter 5:8). The way we resist him in this area is to stay set in Jesus finished works (Jn 17:4).

Part of the armor of God is our feet shod with the preparation with the Gospel of peace (Eph 6:15). In Paul's day he was surrounded around the largest military regime of his time in Rome. The sandals for the Roman soldier's feet were composed of thick leather soles studded with iron cleats. This equipped the soldiers to be firm in their positions and was also made so that the soldiers could progress forward against their enemy and not backwards. We should have a solid foundation with the good news of us being in a dispensation of God's peace extended towards us that we are not retreating and falling back into legalism or condemnation.

The Greek word for entangled is *enechō* and means to be ensnared. Anytime something is ensnared or entangled it implies something that is bound and not free. Legalism is bondage and restrictive because it magnifies the person's obedience and places them under a performance based system.

This verse says Christ made us free. The emphasis under the New Covenant is on Jesus and not us. We were dead therefore could not help or save ourselves, only Jesus could set us free from the constraints and restrictions of the Old Testament Law.

Galatians 5:2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

Paul is not saying if you are circumcised Christ profits you nothing because he was circumcised himself (Acts 22:3). He is saying if you are trusting in the act of circumcision for justification to be right with God then Jesus will profit you nothing. The word profit in Greek is *opheleo* and means useful or advantage.

Any act that we offer to God and ask Him to bless us because of it is putting the focus on what we are doing and not what Jesus did. Many Christians are making Christ of no effect in their life by relating to God based off their performance. The Bible is not about what we need to do for God, it is about what God has done for us.

Galatians 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

Anyone who decides that circumcision is a prerequisite for justification with God, Paul is saying you are now required to keep the **whole** law. If we trust in our acts of holiness then we have placed ourself in bondage to the entire law but for a believer who trust in Jesus finished works then we know he fulfilled the law on our behalf and we rest in what he has done.

The word debtor in Greek is *opheiletes* and means an ower or that is, a person *indebted*. Anyone who has not received Jesus as their Lord now has to offer their own payment for sin because they have rejected His and the person that does that will ultimately end separated from God because our righteousness is of filthy rages and we are still in dept to God (Is 64:6).

Many Christians believe if they do partially good then God will accept it. The law will never bend down and tell you, well you tried so that's good enough. If it is not complete perfection, it is a complete failure. Under law it commands that you love God with all your heart, mind, body and soul. How is that working for you? Some will say well I am trying. Again, the law does not see you trying and you get a pass.

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

The Greek word for estranged is *katargeō* and means entirely idle, separated or discharged from.

We become distant from Christ when we focus on our own works or righteousness. The King James version says Christ becomes of no effect to us. God never moves we do. It is similar to sitting in a pick-up truck. We can be sitting in the middle seat next to the driver and decide to slide over to the window. There becomes a distance between the two in the truck but it was not the driver (God) who moved; we did. The moment we slide over and take our eyes off of the driver (God) and begin to look in the side mirrors at ourself; we become separated from Him and put our attention on ourself.

Some ministers use this verse to say that fallen from grace means that you lose your salvation but that is not what this is saying. Falling from grace is simply going back into performance and self-effort. Notice you have to **fall** from grace, grace is the high ground, not legalism.

The opening verse to this chapter says that we are able to stand firm and be unmovable through grace. It is through legalism that we fall.

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

This is speaking of the redemption of our glorified bodies. We are three parts being and one third of us is already complete which is our spirit but when we die to go and be with the Lord we receive a new glorified body.

It is through the Spirit that we are able to relate to God and rendered innocent (Jn 4:24, Rm 5:1). The flesh was impacted by sin and does not have the ability to serve God.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Circumcision or not (any physical act) none of those matters. Faith is the currency of the kingdom of God and everything we receive from Him is by faith (Rom 5:17). Faith is a tool that brings what God has already done in the spiritual realm into the physical. Faith is not something you need more of. The moment we got born again God's faith was imputed to us (Gal 2:20, Gal 5:22). Jesus told the disciples they didn't need more faith they just needed to put their faith to work (Luke 17:5-10).

When we know how much God loves us it is easy to trust what He says even if we cannot see it or feel it. Christianity is all about relationship but it is impossible to trust someone you do not know and someone who you don't believe loves you.

Paul prayed that our love would abound more and more in knowledge (Phil 1:9). The more we grow in knowledge of how much someone loves us the more we will grow closer to them and our love will increase for them.

One of the greatest ways to discern if God loves us is to look to the cross. Looking at circumstances or feelings to detect God's love will only leave us frustrated. God's love is not conditional or based off what we do, He is love (1 John 4:8) so it is based off who He is. Faith is simply trusting what the Father says and what He has already done. God is the initiator (Grace) and we are the responders (faith).

God says in His Word that we are righteous and are already in right standing with Him the moment we believe on Jesus. Since I know God loves me, I put trust in what He has said instead of what I feel or what my actions may show. Once I BELIEVE what He said, my actions will start to line up.

Galatians 5:7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

In context, Paul is speaking to the Galatians who put faith in Christ for salvation but were falling from grace because of the Judaizers coming in and telling them their acts and obedience played a part as well.

Paul said here that they were disobeying the truth. Moving into legalism is believing a lie because the Word which is truth (Jn 17:17) is clear; by **Grace** we have been saved through **Faith** (Eph 2:8).

The apostle Paul said that he did not run his race with uncertainty (1 Cor 9:26). The Christian life is a race and Paul was not running aimlessly or without joy (Acts 20:24). Professional athletes are discipline and intentional with their focus and decisions. How much more should we be about our Father's business (Lk 2:49)?

Universalism will teach that everyone is saved but God is not willing that anyone should perish (2 Peter 3:9) but not everyone is saved because not everyone receives. God offers salvation to all (Titus 2:11) but there are those who still reject Jesus.

Galatians 5:8 *This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.*

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6). Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost (Lk 19:10) which are sinners (1 Tim 1:15) and the only way to the Father is to receive Jesus, not through our works. You can give \$1,000 a month to a local ministry but if you reject Jesus, you are still headed to hell.

Galatians 5:9 *A little leaven leavens the whole lump.*

A little legalism will infect grace. We cannot tolerate Hagar (law) for even a little. It is as if Jesus died for nothing and we make Christ of no effect.

There should be no compromise when it comes to basing our relationship with God through works.

Galatians 5:10 *I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*

The legalistic Jews were the ones coming and perverting the gospel. The only way to think is to be Gospel minded which is grounded on good news. good news that there is a God who loves you and died for you so that you can enter back into relationship with Him and be reconciled.

Galatians 5:11 *And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.*

Anytime we preach Grace persecution will follow. If Paul was preaching do good get good, there would be no opposition because that is how the entire world operates. When we work hard on the job, we get promoted. When we train hard in football, we are offered a scholarship. If we want a raise for our career, we do better. It is not hard to understand work, and then I will get. There will be no persecution in that message. It takes the Holy Spirit to reveal to us we get good because someone else did good on our behalf and we just rest in what He did.

The offense of the cross, were those trusting in themselves. The cross and Jesus finished works becomes offensive to people that trust in their ability because it tells them that their works don't matter as it pertains to your relationship with God and God accepts someone who is not living as holy as them, that offends them.

The world today offers many ways and avenues to get things done. The Father has offered only one way to Him and that one way is Jesus.

Galatians 5:12 *I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!*

Paul is so serious about the gospel that he is wanting those coming in to pervert the gospel to be removed.

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

As believers we are free from rules and regulations but this verse is very clear, since God is not judging us, we should not use our freedom to indulge the flesh. Paul tells us two important reasons in Romans chapter six why even though God is not imputing sin on us (2 Cor 5:19) we should not yield to sin. The first reason is because we no longer have a nature that wants to live in sin (Rom 6:2) and secondly, when we yield ourselves to sin we are yielding and opening ourselves up to a spirit and its only job is to kill, steal, and destroy (Jn 10:10).

Galatians 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "you shall love your neighbor even as you love yourself."

Love fulfills the entire law (Rom 13:8-10). If we walk in love we will not steal, lie, or murder anyone. Under the New Covenant of grace if we walk in the vertical of God's love for us we can then extend that horizontal love to others and this fulfills the law. The law is not sinful, it is good, just, and holy, and spiritual. We do not need to follow all these rules and regulations. God is love and when He came to live in us love came to live in us. When we are making decisions, we need to ask ourselves, would love do this? Would love say this?

Galatians 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Devouring one another can be seen with animals. Animals that devour one another create contention and strife and where there is envy and strife, there is every form of evil work (Jam 3:16).

The Greek word for consumed is *analiskō* and means to destroy. God is not the One destroying us, we are consumed by one another. Out of the flesh reaps destruction but it is not from God (Gal 6:8).

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The word walk in Greek is *peripateōis* and means to regulate one's life. A believer's life should be regulated by their spirit man. Our spirit is king, our soul is our servant, and our body is our slave.

This is a foundational truth that many Christians have backwards. They think if we stop sinning then we will be in the spirit. This verse says to walk in the spirit and we will not desire the lust of the flesh. When we walk in the spirit in our identity in Christ the flesh and what will feel will bow the knee. Starve the flesh by simply walking in the spirit.

The key to getting out of a dark room is not to shovel the darkness out or to find out why the room is dark. The solution to getting out of a dark room is to turn the light on. The solution to getting out of addiction or sin is to simply, walk in the spirit.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

The word lust in Greek is *epithumeō* and means seek things forbidden. The flesh will always desire things opposite of God and opposite of the spirit.

The flesh and the spirit are enemies or adversaries and have nothing in common. They never agree and it is our soul that determines which one we will walk in. Our soul is the bridge to whether we experience life or death. To be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Rom 8:6). Spiritually minded just means word minded (John 6:38).

Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

All children of God are led by the spirit of God. It is our responsibility to yield ourself to our spirit and allow Him to flow through us. The spirit will always bear witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom 8:17).

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

The Greek word for fornication is *porneia* and means homosexuality. Uncleanness in Greek is *akatharsia* and means the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living and the Greek word for lasciviousness is *aselgeia* and means an unbridled lust.

This verse here says that the flesh is work. Anytime we are in the flesh it is work but when we walk in the spirit of who we already are, it is rest. Walking in the flesh will produce all these things listed in this verse.

Gal 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

The Greek word for idolatry is *eidōlolatrea* is referring to an image worshipper but covetousness is also idolatry (Col 3:5). Witchcraft in Greek is *pharmakeia* and means the administering of drugs.

It is interesting that the apostle Paul inserted heresies in this text along with strife and hatred. The Greek word for heresies is *hairesis* and means a dissension arising from diversity of opinions and aims. In Jesus day, His dealings were with the Pharisees and Sadducees. The apostle Paul is facing the legalistic Jews and another meaning for the word heresies means the act of taking capture. The tradition of men makes the word of God of no effect (Mark 7:13).

These are all characteristics of someone not saved.

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9 says a similar message that many believe if they are doing these things they will not get to heaven but that voids Paul's entire message of this book. Receiving salvation is based off faith in Jesus and not man's performance. This says "practice" such things and is meaning those who are not born again and have an active lifestyle of participating in these activities. If a believer indulges in these, they do not lose their salvation but they do hinder their inheritance from coming into the physical realm because **they** place themselves on none receiving ground which is sins territory and sins motive is to always kill and destroy. Anytime we move into sins territory, we give the enemy legal access to dominate us because we are on his territory. A BELIEVER DOES NOT BELONG THERE, get off his property and go back home!

If a believer yields to the flesh they are hindering their inheritance. This verse is not a heaven or hell issue. Actions do not produce salvation, but salvation does produce actions.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

The flesh has works but the spirit here it says produces fruit. All of the things listed here I have heard believers say God give me peace or God give me patience. This is a prayer that will go unanswered because God imputed everything listed here in the inside of you the moment you received Jesus. Our born-again spirits already have love, joy, peace and every other characteristic listed in this verse. Peace does not come as a byproduct of you praying for it, it comes as a result of something you believe. **These are not standards to live by.**

The Holy Spirit produces the fruit we just bare it by walking in union with Christ in our spirit (Jn 15:5, Gal 5:16). The fruit of the spirit is not a feeling but a force. These aren't apples and oranges; they are divine forces to oppose the enemy's attacks.

Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Attempting to follow after the law will not produce these attributes. We have all of these 24 hours and 7 days a week regardless of what we feel or how bad we have messed up (Rom 11:29, 1 Jn 2:27).

Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

This verse says we have crucified the flesh. A believer is no longer in the flesh but in the spirit (Rom 8:9). We can choose to walk after the flesh but our position is in the spirit. Victory over the flesh is found in the spirit (Romans Chapter 8).

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The word life in Greek is *zōē* and means to enjoy real life. The only way to truly enjoy life is to align our souls with our spirit to release the life of God. Anything outside of walking in the spirit is nothing more than a counterfeit.

Victory over the flesh was provided when God came to live in us. What we could not do in our own strength, God living in us can now do. Forgiving someone who has harmed us can only take place through God indwelling us and us walking after the spirit. A man not saved cannot love someone with love that last and is unconditional because that is God's kind of love and they cannot give something they have not received. Human love is short term, always fails, and is based off how the other person treats them. God's kind of love is based off who He is, not how we are!

Galatians 5:26 *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

This is going in context with how to live after the spirit which is where victory is.

The Greek word for provoke is *prokaleomai* and means to irritate and the Greek word for envying is *phthoneō* and means to be jealous. If we are walking in the spirit, we will not be jealous or irritated with anyone.