

A Walk through Galatians

Introduction

Paul

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Chapter 1

'This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia. May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. '

Galatians 1:1-3

Here's a letter from Paul to the churches in Galatia. Paul was an apostle, specifically set apart to bring the gospel to peoples who have never heard of Jesus. His calling was not because an authority told him to go, nor because of any group of people, but by Jesus Christ himself, and God the Father who raised Jesus from the dead. Paul and all the brothers and sisters with him send a greeting, "May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace." Two things to know for certain, we live in God's grace and rest in His peace. He richly pours out salvation, sanctification and forgiveness, a gift not earned, but dotes on us whom He loves. And with it come His peace. We can rest, in full assurance of His love and joy over us. What a gift. This is the letter to the believers in Galatia, and to all of us.

'Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. '

Galatians 1:4-5

Two verses give the whole of the good news to us! Our sins are fully paid, because Jesus gave His life for them. God our father planned this before the it ever began to take shape. He is our father and wanted to rescue us. His love for us is unmeasurable, but great. He knows the evil world we are in, but He is working a plan to bring Himself glory forever and ever. He is doing this and including us in offering glory. And He is taking this to every nation, every people. His plans let us join in! What a God we serve!

'I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. '

Galatians 1:6-9

Stay with Jesus. He poured Himself out for you, and drew you to Himself. You are free, resting in His grace. Don't give that away to follow someone else's practice of devotion. It's Jesus only. There are teachers and leaders who will beguile you to follow them. But we don't follow people, or rules, or practices. We follow Holy Spirit's voice and leading, and serve Jesus alone as our Lord. Any other message you hear is false, and the messenger cursed.

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'Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. '

Galatians 1:8-10

Stand for what is true. Guard and protect the holy message the Lord brought to you! We follow Him alone, and we do not regard the controls and rules of men. Holy SPIRIT will speak to your heart as He does to mine, and He will elevate Jesus and glorify the Father. He walks with us and talks with us, and we find our life in Him alone. So stand firm!

'Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus. '

Galatians 1:11-17

The great change happened when I gave up my human based religious practices, and received the gift of salvation and relationship from Jesus Christ. Time with rabbis has been exchanged for quiet time with Jesus. I sought no scholars, but instead went to the desert and sought Him. God's amazing grace has changed me, and now I am a messenger of His good news for all the nations.

'Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother. I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn't know me personally. All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" And they praised God because of me.'

Galatians 1:18-24

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Sometimes we are following the Lord through scenarios, gatherings and visits. He is the one doing the work, and we get to join in, walk alongside, and learn. Paul was doing this.

Eventually his reputation for destroying the church was changed into a reputation of praise to the Lord!

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Chapter 2

'Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too. I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile.'

Galatians 2:1-3

We go because God reveals to us that we should. Always be following the Lord. Obey His word, listen for His guidance, and place every decision before Him. And, He will show up!

Paul went back to Jerusalem to meet with the other apostles. They received him, blessed his ministry, and agreed with how the Lord had been leading Paul. He was not the old guy, he was completely made new. And the gospel came wherever he went. No strings or stipulations, they simply blessed him and supported him!

'Even that question came up only because of some so-called believers there—false ones, really—who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations. But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you. And the leaders of the church had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favorites.)'

Galatians 2:4-6

Power and prestige do not establish faith or represent the gospel. Sometimes we are opposed by the religious, whose entire belief system is wrapped up in works. They want to earn salvation by performance. We are done with that, and with them. Follow Jesus only.

'Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews. For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles. In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.'

Galatians 2:7-10

Peter and the apostles recognized what God was doing with Paul and Barnabas. They were responsible

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for the gospel going to the gentiles. Peter understood he was responsible for preaching the gospel to the Jews. All of this is a gift from God, and so they blessed Paul, and Barnabas too, with encouragement! And they reminded Paul to remember the poor.

Likewise we need to look and see what the Lord is leading and doing, and we should jump right in, do our part as well. We should bless those who are called, and we should fulfil our calling too. And all along, remember the poor. Give, care and work for them too.

'But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions? "You and I are Jews by birth, not 'sinners' like the Gentiles. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." '

Galatians 2:11-16

We must join in and share with all our brothers and sisters. They are our equals before the Lord, and we must not make cultural judgements when the Lord has welcomed both them and us. Paul had to confront Peter, and remind him of God's welcome to the gentiles. And Paul had to rebuke the ill behavior.

Friends, we stand in Jesus alone, and all our rules and trappings are merely traps. Don't bank on the rules, but follow Jesus instead!

'But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for God. My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.'

Galatians 2:17-21

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I can't be made whole by striving to keep the Law. Truly, I stand by grace alone, and I let Christ live in me. Christ crucified my old self, and entered in with His righteousness for me. I trust Him, cherish His love, and His amazing gift.

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Chapter 3

'Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? '

Galatians 3:1-4

You were saved entirely by believing in Jesus and His carrying your sins on the cross. His love drew you in. But now, somehow, you want to earn your salvation by obeying rules, laws and traditions? This doesn't work. Who has tricked you into such false belief?

Satan and his minions come to steal, kill and destroy. Don't give them any quarter. Come instead to the savior whose love is poured out for you. He has done it, so rest!

'I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. '

Galatians 3:5-7

The Law doesn't do it. Faith in the Lord brings grace. He fills us with the Holy Spirit, welcomes us as His children It's just like Abraham, believing God. That's what we do!

"What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Galatians 3:8-9

Always in His plan, the gentiles belonged to God from the beginning. Winning their hearts to faith was done in Christ, Abraham's seed. Everyone is welcome. Put our faith in Christ, and share in God's blessing!

'But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law." So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." '

Galatians 3:10-11

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Counting on my righteousness by keeping the Law is a Fool's Errand. It won't work, cannot work. Because we cannot do it perfectly, and we fall under the Law's curse.

Faith alone. That's how we get there. Jesus died, and I trust in Him. His work made me clean!

'This way of faith is very different from the way of law, which says, "It is through obeying the law that a person has life." But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith. '

Galatians 3:12-14

Here's the great secret, we receive the Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus as our righteousness. God lives in us, leads, guides, speaks and encourages. All because we couldn't do it and Christ did it! Oh celebrate, listen, walk with Him and see what great things lie ahead!

'Dear brothers and sisters, here's an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or amend an irrevocable agreement, so it is in this case. God gave the promises to Abraham and his child. And notice that the Scripture doesn't say "to his children," as if it meant many descendants. Rather, it says "to his child"—and that, of course, means Christ. This is what I am trying to say: The agreement God made with Abraham could not be canceled 430 years later when God gave the law to Moses. God would be breaking his promise. For if the inheritance could be received by keeping the law, then it would not be the result of accepting God's promise. But God graciously gave it to Abraham as a promise. '

Galatians 3:15-18

God's Promise is irrevocable. In Abraham's seed (child) all the nations would be blessed. We are under that blessing, children of Abraham, because we believe in God's Promise. And so we are saved in Jesus!

Every Day is Merry Christmas – we have a savior!

'Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people. Now a mediator is helpful if more than one party must reach an agreement. But God, who is one, did not use a mediator when he gave his promise to Abraham. Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. '

Galatians 3:19-22

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Simply, the Law couldn't bring you peace with God. But we learned that our souls were broken, and we could not merit God's love. And yet, God promises freedom to us. There's but one avenue to this freedom, believing in Jesus Christ. All my hope is in Him alone. And suddenly, I am living in His freedom.

'Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.'

Galatians 3:23-25

So the Law protected the children of God until Messiah came. The hope and prayer was always Messiah, but the Law kept the children while waiting. Then Jesus came, carried away all our sins and those of the whole world, offering us His righteousness, by faith! And so we live by our faith, ever more!

'For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.'

Galatians 3:26-29

We get there by faith, we are children of God! Jesus made it so. But we don't just sit here, we "put on Christ" in baptism. We set our identity as His kids. We no longer distinguish by the law, or by gender or by nationality, or even by culture. We Identify as His family, and we live it out!

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Chapter 4

'Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. They have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world.

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir. '

Galatians 4:1-7

Praise our Father, for "The right time!" He knew our need. He planned a way of escape. A law to hold us until Messiah could come. And then sending His son, who bought our freedom and enabled God's adoption of us! We are His, and we call Him "Abba" or "Daddy." Did we even know the love He feels toward us?

'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? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.

I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.'

Galatians 4:8-12a

God has set us free from keeping laws and rules, so that we might know Him, and He know us. Don't go back to rules and seasons, festivals and holy days. Instead, draw near to Jesus. Listen to Holy Spirit, and serve Him! Don't be a slave, but be free in Jesus.

'...You did not mistreat me when I first preached to you. Surely you remember that I was sick when I first brought you the Good News. But even though my condition tempted you to reject me, you did not despise me or turn me away. No, you took me in and cared for me as though I were an angel from God or even Christ Jesus himself. 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. Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth? '

Galatians 4:12b-16

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Has your love gone dry? Early in faith you poured out for many, including me. You didn't revile my physical condition, but welcomed me and listened all about Christ. But now these false teachers are tempting you to rules and practices, which are not from Christ. I'm not your enemy, but you're treating me that way.

Welcome the Lord's apostles! Listen to the message and compare it with the Gospel. If you land in grace and peace, you are in Jesus. But if you land in law and works, you've walked from the faith. Come back to Jesus!

'Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them. If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you. 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. I wish I were with you right now so I could change my tone. But at this distance I don't know how else to help you. '

Galatians 4:17-20

Paul ached for the believers in Galatia. He longed for them to continue walking in faith, until Christ is fully developed in their lives. This is the hope of every true evangelist, every true pastor, every true teacher. We work, and pray, so that you might completely walk in Jesus, and rest in His grace. Works are gone. The Law is over. Holy Spirit inside to lead, His Word to guide, and trust to carry you forward. Make it so this year!

'Tell me, you who want to live under the law, do you know what the law actually says? The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave wife and one from his freeborn wife. The son of the slave wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.

These two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. The first woman, Hagar, represents Mount Sinai where people received the law that enslaved them. And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery to the law. But the other woman, Sarah, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. She is the free woman, and she is our mother.

As Isaiah said,
"Rejoice, O childless woman, you who have never given birth!
Break into a joyful shout, you who have never been in labor!
For the desolate woman now has more children
than the woman who lives with her husband!"

Galatians 4:21-27

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We are children of the Free Woman! No longer bound by the Law, we are beckoned to walk with Jesus in His freedom! Draw near, rest in His love, obey His spirit, and adore Him! So don't turn back to law-keeping and point-counting. We cannot ever earn the deep love of God. But God has poured his full love into us in Jesus, and we evermore live with Him!

'And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac. But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit.

But what do the Scriptures say about that? "Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the inheritance with the free woman's son."

So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman; we are children of the free woman.'

Galatians 4:28-31

We are not people established by human effort. Our righteousness is based on Christ alone. We don't obey laws to gain standing or merit... So begin with belief and trust in Jesus, and stay there. Allow Him to work in you, to serve through you, to lead and guide you. There will be goodness, service, caring, and sacrifice as He leads you. These will come as fruit from your faith.

Abraham believed God and it was counted as righteousness to him. We must do the very same.

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Chapter 5

'So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. '

Galatians 5:1-4

We are free. In Christ, every tether, every rope, every weight, every net, have all been removed. We are no longer constrained, and are freed to walk in joy with Jesus. Love and adore Him, He has set you free.

But if you fall back to laws, to rules, hoping to add something to the freedom He has already given, then you are forgetting what He has done. Don't go there.

If it's circumcision or anything else, it's neglecting the absolute free grace in which you were actually saved. Don't fall away from His grace - you are too precious to Him!

'But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. '

Galatians 5:5-6

We live by the Spirit of God. We wait for Him to pour His promised grace over us. The grace is God's son died for us, and His Spirit living in us. We don't need to become Jewish to be saved. We don't need to become any other culture to be saved. We are in our culture, putting our trust in Jesus, and walking with God as Holy Spirit leads. How does this work? Well, God has made every man and woman in His image. He has raised them in cultures, and they uniquely convey His glory by faith, even while walking in their culture.

Our walk isn't rules and regulations, ordinances and calendar items. No, our walk is reading in God's word, resting in His grace, following His Spirit, in worship and praise, and also in asking for needs. He's alive and working in us. And we are adoring and following Him. What a glory we get to worship!

'You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you. '

Galatians 5:7-10

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God called you to freedom in Christ. Who beckoned you back to slavery? Come away from there, you'll die in that poison!

'Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. '

Galatians 5:11-15

Jesus didn't save you by a foreskin. He saved you by a full body slam on the cross, carrying every sin and trespass by you, placing on himself, and suffering the agony punishment in your place. We don't add to this. We can't augment His work, it's complete.

We can love and adore Him, glorify Him and elevate Him before the world. We can serve others in hope that they also place their absolute need on Him too. Let's do this today. Let's do this every day. He is worthy, and we are completely lost without Him.

'So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. '

Galatians 5:16-18

We are called to walk in the Spirit, and let Holy Spirit guide and direct! Take time to worship the Father, honor and adore the Son, and ask Holy Spirit to be in charge. Every day. This is His life, living in us. And it's awesome!

'When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. '

Galatians 5:19-21

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Whose kingdom will you pursue? The Kingdom of Sin brings death. Don't live for sin. The teaching is very clear.

'But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! '

Galatians 5:22-23

Draw near to the Lord. Ask Holy Spirit to make you just as Father designed. Then enjoy the fruit, even as you walk in His Spirit! Joy and peace are awesome in a world of threats, fears and terrors. He carries us and He produces fruit!

'Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.'

Galatians 5:24-26

Follow the Spirit's leading in everything. Leave the sin on the cross - Jesus already carried that for us. And don't antagonize one another. We are called to the Lord, to live by His Spirit. Let's do just that!

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Chapter 6

'Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. '

Galatians 6:1-3

We are the body of Christ. So help each other. Bring each other back to the Lord. Walk together, and trust Holy Spirit to build into each one His fruit! Does someone have need? Step in and help! We only win together!

'Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct. '

Galatians 6:4-5

When I do the work the Lord has called me to do, there's joy and satisfaction! So I get after it and be careful with it! I own it, as it's from God Himself, given me to do...

'Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them. Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. '

Galatians 6:6-8

Whoever you are learning from should find provision from you. We provide for our teachers. Do what's just in all areas. We harvest what we plant, so plant deeply into God's Kingdom! Live to please The Spirit, and enjoy everlasting life! This is how we do it!

'So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. '

Galatians 6:9-10

Press on to do good, keep after it! When we're tired, double down and do more good. Blessing has come and will continue to come. Our God is a blessing, and He blesses us to become a blessing to others. Be strong, and do good, while we await Jesus!

' Notice what large letters I use as I write these closing words in my own handwriting.

A Walk through Galatians

Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised want to look good to others. They don't want to be persecuted for teaching that the cross of Christ alone can save. And even those who advocate circumcision don't keep the whole law themselves. They only want you to be circumcised so they can boast about it and claim you as their disciples.

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died. It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. '

Galatians 6:11-15

Paul asserts his authorship with his own handwriting at the end. He wants the believers to know for certain that it's him. And he wants them to know that circumcision is the way out for false believers who want to avoid persecution that comes with Jesus Christ crucified.

He wraps with dismissing circumcision, and placing the measure of authenticity on the transformation of a believer into a new creation. Has Christ changed you? That's all you need for membership! You are a true believer.

'It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.

From now on, don't let anyone trouble me with these things. For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.'

Galatians 6:15-18

It's all about being God's new creation. He changes us, and makes us brand new. We don't get new by rule-following. We are made new by faith in Jesus, and giving ourselves to Him. He fills us with His Spirit, and we walk ahead in faith. It's that simple.

So friends, live in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is how we do it!