

## **Victory Over Sin, The Fruit of The Spirit**

Just as Paul was having problems with the Corinthians regarding drunkenness and gluttony even during communion and also having problem with the Corinthians misusing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, he was experiencing another serious issue with the Galatians as Judaizes had convinced them to observe certain parts of the law. We see this in **Galatians 1:8-9 (KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.** Because of this Paul said that the Galatians had been bewitched. **Galatians 3:1-3 (KJV) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?** Any additions or subtracts to the Word of God perverts the true Gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation.

Let's go to chapter 5 and look at more of what Paul taught regarding the blessings of the true gospel.

**Galatians 5:1-6 (KJV) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2) Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. 5) For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.**

Gal. 5:1 states that there is true liberty in the Gospel, the pure unaltered gospel makes us free. **John 8:31-32 (KJV) says, Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*** No truth no freedom. In v.2, Paul states that if we choose to stay under the law, then the work that Christ did on the cross benefited nothing.

In v. 3 we see that if we choose law over grace, we have to obey the whole law, which is works and not faith. V.4 states by changing the scriptures in this case by adding the law, we lose the unsearchable riches of Christ and we fall into works. V. 5, the hope of righteousness by faith is hope for the here and now and for the righteousness we will obtain when we go to be with the Lord. In v. 6 we see love works by faith and only through the perfect law of liberty can we walk in love. Again, adding to, in this case the law or taking away, in this case grace, affects our love walk adversely.

**Galatians 5:7-15 (KJV) Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? 8) This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you. 9) A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. 10) I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. 11) And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. 12) I would they were even cut off which trouble you. 13) For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15) But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.**

In the beginning Paul was commending the Galatians on obeying the true gospel and receiving miracles by faith. However, he continues by saying they changed to doctrine that did not come from Christ. Even the smallest deviation from the truth destroys love, faith and grace.

Paul shows his disdain with those who are trying to get them to add the law into the gospel and states they shall see judgement. He also asks the question if I yet preach circumcision why am I yet persecuted? His reference to the offense of the cross suggest that Paul was not only preaching love but the many blessings of the new blood covenant in the Spirit.

V 13 Paul warns the Galatians not to use their liberty on sin and iniquity but to love one another and serve one another. He then confirms this by saying that all the law is fulfilled in the great commandment, love God, love thy neighbor and love thy self.

In v 15 we see an example of a little leaven destroying the whole lump. When we begin to judge, walk in bitterness and slander, Paul is suggesting that we may destroy our fellowship with each other.

**Galatians 5:16-18 (KJV) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.***

In v. 16 we are told to walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh. I think we need to talk about how one accomplishes this. As a believer we are told to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. We are also told to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God. This should be the first things we do when we get up each day. We need to begin to exercise our senses through use, to discern both good and evil. In Prov. 4:30 the writer tells us to pay close continuous attention to the word of God. Discipleship and quality time with the Lord needs to be an ongoing part of every believers lives. We need to be thanking God and praising Him and since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, we need to speak out loud our gratitude and praise and pray out loud whenever we can. In this we need to examine our hearts and ask the Lord to show us any sin or iniquity that has found lodging there. When the scripture talks about crucifying the flesh it is referring to finding, repenting, receiving forgiveness, and casting out sin and iniquity from our hearts by the Sword of the Spirit. The Word of the Spirit is our mouth, casting out spirits in Jesus' name. As we continue the process of experiential sanctification by the Holy Spirit, we grow in discernment, recognize what comes to us from God and what is being offered by Satan. Once we have evicted all sin and iniquity from our hearts we need to invite and speak into our hearts the truth of God's Words and be vigilant to recognize sin trying to get back in. We stop it from returning by saying I don't receive you in Jesus' name. Each day we need to ask the Lord to fill us with His Spirit and in all of our ways ask for His direction and protection from all that is evil. We can now be more successful in walking in the Spirit and not walking in the flesh. Along the way each day we need to be vigilant and guard our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are all the issues of life. We see this taught in **Proverbs 4:20-23 (KJV) *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.***

**Galatians 19-21, 19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20) Idolatry, witchcraft,**

**hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 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.**

In v. 19 we see the works of the flesh are never righteous but always unrighteous. The word manifest suggests that these sins and iniquities manifest from within, from our hearts, if they have found lodging in us. We know that this is a partial list of manifestation of the flesh and we see that Paul ends v. 21 by saying that they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Thankfully the word do in the Greek means do and continue to do, without conscience.

**Galatians 5:22-24 (KJV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Frequently people will ask me what does love look like? The fruit of the Spirit is what love looks like. The fruit of the Spirit is what God wants manifesting in our lives; so to be filled with the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit will be the condition of those who manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

**Romans 8:11-14 (KJV)** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

There is a pointed contrast here. As verse 16 indicates, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* There is no need for a believer to display the works of the flesh; rather, by the Spirit's power he can manifest the nine graces that are now listed. It is important to observe that **'the fruit'** here described is not produced by a believer, but by **'the'** Holy **'Spirit'** working through a Christian who is in vital union with Christ.

**John 15:1-8 (KJV)** I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. :2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. :3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. :4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. :5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. :6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. :7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. :8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

The word “fruit” is singular, indicating that these qualities constitute a unity, all of which should be found in a believer who lives under the control of the Spirit. In an ultimate sense this “fruit” is simply the life of Christ lived out in a Christian. It also points to the method whereby Christ is formed in a believer.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV)** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**Philippians 1:21 (KJV)** For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

The first three virtues are habits of mind which find their source in God.

**Love** is listed first because it is the foundation of the other graces. God is love and loves the world.

**1 John 4:8 (KJV)** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is **love**.

**John 3:16 (KJV)** For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Such self-sacrificing love that sent Christ to die for sinners is the kind of love that believers who are Spirit-controlled manifest.

**Joy** is a deep and abiding inner rejoicing which was promised to those who abide in Christ.

**John 15:11 (KJV)** These things have I spoken unto you, that my **joy** might remain in you, and *that* your **joy** might be full.

It does not depend on circumstances because it rests in God’s sovereign control of all things.

**Romans 8:28 (KJV)** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

**Peace** is again a gift of Christ.

**John 14:27 (KJV)** **Peace** I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

It is an inner repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding.

**Philippians 4:7 (KJV)** And the **peace** of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The second trio reaches out to others, fortified by love, joy, and peace.

**Longsuffering** (Patience) is the quality of forbearance under provocation.

**2 Corinthians 6:6 (KJV)** By pureness, by knowledge, by **longsuffering**, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

**Colossians 1:11 (KJV)** Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and **longsuffering** with joyfulness;

**Colossians 3:12 (KJV)** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, **longsuffering**;

It entertains no thoughts of retaliation even when wrongfully treated.

**Gentleness** (Kindness) is benevolence in action, such as God demonstrated toward men; since God is kind toward sinners,

**Romans 2:4 (KJV)** Or despisest thou the riches of his **goodness** and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the **goodness** of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**2 Corinthians 6:6 (KJV)** By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by **kindness**, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

**Ephesians 2:7 (KJV)** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* **kindness** toward us through Christ Jesus.

a Christian should display the same virtue.

**Colossians 3:12 (KJV)** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, **kindness**, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

**Goodness** may be thought of, both, as an uprightness of soul and as an action reaching out to others to do good, even when it is not deserved.

**Romans 15:14 (KJV)** And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of **goodness**, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

**Colossians 1:8-10 (KJV)** Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every **good** work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

**Faith** (faithfulness) is the quality which renders a person trustworthy or reliable, like the faithful servant in

**Luke 16:10-12 (KJV)** He that is **faithful** in that which is least is **faithful** also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. :11 If therefore ye have not been **faithful** in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? :12 And if ye have not been **faithful** in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

**Meekness** (gentleness) marks a person who is submissive to God's Word

**James 1:21 (KJV)** Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with **meekness** the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

and who is considerate of others when discipline is needed, 'gently' in

**Galatians 6:1 (KJV)** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of **meekness**; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

**2 Timothy 2:22-26 (KJV)** Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. :23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. :24 And the



servant of the Lord must not strive; but be **gentle** unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, :25 In **meekness** instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; :26 And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

“gentle” in

**1 Corinthians 4:21 (KJV)** What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and *in* the spirit of **meekness**?

**Ephesians 4:2 (KJV)** With all lowliness and **meekness**, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

“gentleness” in

**Colossians 3:12 (KJV)** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, **meekness**, longsuffering;

**1 Peter 3:15-16 (KJV)** But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with **meekness** and fear: :16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

**Temperance** (self-control) **enkrátēia**; this noun is used in the New Testament only here and in

**Acts 24:25 (KJV)** And as he reasoned of righteousness, **temperance**, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

**2 Peter 1:6 (KJV)** And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

Denotes self-mastery and no doubt primarily relates to curbing the fleshly impulses just described in Gal. 5:19-21. Such quality is impossible to attain apart from the power of God’s Spirit.

**Galatians 5:16 (KJV)** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

As a final summary statement Paul affirmed that there are no prohibitions, *“against such there is no law”*, **there is** not a **law against such** virtues. In a understatement, he asserted that obviously no one would make laws against people who practice such things.