

Spiritual Restoration

Galatians 5:26-6:1

Gal. 5:6-9 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love**. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Gal. 5:6-9 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**

Gal. 5:16-18 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law**. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

I. The Goal of Spiritual Restoration

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, **if anyone is caught in any transgression**, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, **if anyone is defeated (captured, entrapped) by any form of transgression**, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

1 John 1:8-10 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar**, and his word is not in us.

James 3:2 For **we all stumble in many ways**. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is defeated (captured, entrapped) by any form of transgression, you who are spiritual **should restore him** in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

καταρτίζω basic meaning *thoroughly prepare something to meet demands; put in order, restore to a former condition, mend, repair*;¹

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is defeated (captured, entrapped) by any form of transgression, you who are spiritual **should restore him** in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

II. The Conditions of Spiritual Restoration

A. The Fruit of the Spirit

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you **who are spiritual** should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Gal. 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions**, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:22-24 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you **who are under the influence of the fruit of the Spirit** should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

1 Cor. 3:1-4 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

B. The Spirit of Gentleness

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you **who are under the influence of the fruit of the Spirit** should restore him **in a spirit of gentleness**. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

¹ Friberg, Bibleworks 10

2 Tim. 2:23-6 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome **but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

C. Watching Yourself

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you **who are under the influence of the fruit of the Spirit** should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. **Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.**

Matthew 7:1-4 "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?"

Gal. 5:25-6:1 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you **who are under the influence of the fruit of the Spirit** should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. **Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.**

Practical Implications

- When we see our brother or sister acting in the flesh, our obligation is to help them be freed from this trap.
- We can only do this when we are filled with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Gentleness is the most critical condition for successfully helping others.
- In helping others, it is vital that we ourselves do not succumb to the influence of the flesh.