



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Religion vs. Relationship

Speaker: Pastor Alan Brooks

Highlighted Scripture

Primary Passage — Galatians 1–5 (selected excerpts, ESV)

Galatians 2:15–16

“We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ... because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

Galatians 3:2–3

“Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

Galatians 3:24–26

“So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came... But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.”

Galatians 5:13–18

“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... But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Other Passage — John 11:28 (ESV)

When Martha heard Jesus was coming, “she went and met Him, but Mary

remained seated in the house.”

Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding of being Torah Observant?
2. Do you believe that faith in Jesus is enough to be right with God?
3. How is being tutored under the law different from being led by the Spirit?
4. Scripture says we are free in Christ, but are there limits to that freedom?
5. How are you growing in being beyond the law and being led by the Spirit?

Reflection Challenge

Take time to examine where your walk with Christ may be slipping into religious effort rather than relational faith.

Ask yourself:

- Am I doing things for God, or walking with God?
- Am I relying on human effort, or the Spirit’s leading?

Choose one area where you tend to “strive” and intentionally surrender it to Jesus.

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you instead of trying to perfect yourself by rules or willpower.

Let this be a week of freedom—not freedom to live as you please, but freedom to love, obey, and walk with God from a place of grace.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that I am made right with You through faith in Jesus alone.

Protect my heart from drifting back into self-effort, legalism, or trying to earn what You freely give.

Holy Spirit, guide my steps, shape my desires, and empower me to live in the freedom Christ purchased for me.

**Teach me to walk with You daily — not by the law, but by Your leading.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

