

NO ADDITIVES

Grace: According to Galatians



Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Key Concept: Grace Restores the Authority of God

There are moments in Scripture when the Apostle Paul is not merely correcting theology—he is **reopening access to something the church has quietly lost**.

Galatians 5 is one of those moments.

Paul begins the chapter with a command that sounds simple but carries enormous weight:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...” (Gal. 5:1)

Paul is not talking about political freedom or personal autonomy.

He is talking about **spiritual access**.

Because something happens when people live under law instead of grace.

Not only does guilt increase — **distance increases.**

Law always pushes God away from people.

Grace always brings God near again.

And when God comes near, the **Spirit begins to move.**

That is the real battleground in Galatians 5.

It is vital to comprehend that as you experience and walk into the grace of God, you are removing barriers that have silenced the spirit of God.

Paul has already hinted at something earlier in the letter that many readers miss. In Galatians 3 he asks a question that is almost rhetorical:

“He therefore that ministers to you the Spirit, and works miracles among you, does he do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”

In other words:

When God began moving among you...
when miracles started appearing...
when the Spirit began stirring your hearts...

Did that come from religious performance?
Or did it come from **faith resting in grace?**

Paul's answer is obvious.

**Miracles never grow in an
atmosphere of performance.**

They grow where people have learned
to **depend on God again.**

Grace removes the barriers that human effort builds.

**Grace does not merely forgive sin — it restores the
environment where God's presence can move again.**

Paul then makes one of the most important statements in the chapter:

“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:16)

To walk in the Spirit means your life is no longer governed by pressure—it is governed by **presence**.

It means the direction of your life is being shaped by the Spirit of God rather than by the anxiety of trying to maintain your own righteousness.

And in the New Testament, whenever the Spirit begins to lead people, two things begin to appear at the same time:

Transformation and demonstration.

The Spirit forms Christ **within** believers.

And the Spirit reveals Christ **through** believers.

The same Spirit who produces love, joy, and peace **is** the Spirit who raised the dead through the apostles, healed the sick in the early church, and empowered ordinary believers to speak with authority.

Where the Spirit is welcomed,
the life of God begins to move again.

Walking in the Spirit is not passive spirituality—it is participation in the life of God.

So, we walk in the spirit and not in the flesh because -

**The Flesh Is Not Just Sinful Behavior—
It Is Self-Reliant Living**

Paul contrasts the Spirit with the flesh.

Most people assume this means immoral behavior, but the deeper issue Paul is addressing is **self-reliance**.

Defined:

Self-Reliance =

Human life operating independently of God.

The flesh is life organized around what *we* can control.
It is the instinct that says:

“I will fix this.”

“I will manage this.”

“I will produce the result.”

But **miracles** cannot live in an
environment controlled by **human strength**.

Miracles require something the flesh refuses to embrace:
Dependence.

Flesh wants control.

Faith welcomes surrender.

Flesh wants explanation.

Faith trusts the presence of God.

Grace dismantles the illusion that we can manage life on
our own so that the Spirit can move again.

The flesh resists dependence,
but the Spirit responds to it.

After Paul describes the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, he shifts the conversation in a direction many people overlook.

He begins to list what he calls the fruit of the Spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

These are not simply moral virtues.

They are **the character of a life governed by the Spirit.**

And this matters because the authority of God cannot safely rest on a life that is not shaped by the character of God.

Power without love becomes manipulation.
Authority without gentleness becomes control.

Grace transforms the heart so that the Spirit can entrust greater things.

Fruit is not separate from the miraculous—it is the **foundation that sustains it.**

The Spirit forms Christ's character in us so that Christ's authority can move through us.

So that, When the Spirit Governs Life, the Authority of God Returns...

Paul closes with a simple but profound instruction:

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
(Gal. 5:25)

The order matters.

First life.

Then walking.

Grace restores life.

The Spirit directs movement.

And when believers stop striving in the flesh and begin yielding to the Spirit, something remarkable begins to happen.

The life of God begins to move again.

The authority of God’s kingdom begins to appear again.

Not because believers have become powerful — but because they have learned to live under the **power of the Spirit**.

The Spirit who brings peace also brings healing.
The Spirit who produces patience also releases authority.
The Spirit who shapes character also carries the power of God's kingdom.

CLOSING:

Grace does more than pardon our past.

Grace restores our access to the Spirit of God.

And when the Spirit of God begins to lead our lives again, both **fruit and power** begin to appear.

Because wherever the Spirit is welcomed,
the presence of God becomes tangible,
the authority of God becomes visible,
and the miraculous becomes possible again.

Grace opens the door.

The Spirit walks in.

And when the Spirit walks in,
the life of God begins to move again.

