

## Galatians 5:1-26 **Faith / Spirit**

### Stand fast in the liberty of Christ

<sup>1</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

### Under the Law you are fallen from Grace

<sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

### Righteousness by Faith – In Christ the laws of Judaism avail nothing

<sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

### You ran well, what hindered you? – A little leaven leavens the whole lump

<sup>7</sup> You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup> I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. <sup>11</sup> And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

### The Law is fulfilled in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>12</sup> I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! <sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

### Walk in the Spirit – Avoid lusts of the flesh

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

### Works of the Flesh

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

### Evidence of the Spirit

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

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Facts Revealed:

**Stand fast in the liberty of Christ** [Galatians 5:1]

- ✚ Paul has been building on the concept that the Gentile Church is not bound by the traditional works rituals of Judaism, but are saved by faith in the Gospel of Grace.
- ✧ Paul used Abraham as an example of believing faith which God approved as righteousness.
- ✧ Since by faith we were set free from the bondage of ritualistic rules of Judaism, Paul now enjoins us to stand fast in the liberty of our faith, and not to return to Judaism.
- ✧ It is the **commandments of men** that Jesus had said made the commandments of God of no effect. [Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13]

**Under the Law you are fallen from Grace** [Galatians 5:2-4]

- ✚ If you attempt to be justified by the works of Judaism, you have fallen from grace.
- ✧ If you succumb to the doctrine of the Judaizers, the Gospel of Christ will be of no value to you because you will be attempting to earn your salvation by your own efforts rather than believing the promise of God.
- ✧ It is the same old choice, saved by faith or by works.

**Righteousness by Faith – In Christ the laws of Judaism avail nothing** [Galatians 5:5-6]

- ✚ Through the Holy Spirit, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
- ✧ Circumcision or uncircumcision avails nothing in Christ Jesus.
- ✧ In Christ Jesus the only thing that is of value is faith working through love.

**You ran well, what hindered you? – A little leaven leavens the whole lump** [Galatians 5:7-12]

- ✚ You started well by **faith believing** the Gospel message you received through our ministry.
- ✧ Those who are attempting to persuade you to submit to the rules of Judaism are **not** from God Who calls you by grace through faith.
- ✧ A little leaven of false doctrine spoils the whole lump.
- ✚ Paul assured the Galatians that he has confidence that they will understand and accept this advice.
- ✧ The Judaizers who are troubling the Galatians will face the judgment of God for their error.
- ✧ Paul is suffering persecution from the Judaizers because they are offended by the message of the cross.
- ✧ Paul said: I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!  
[Galatians 5:12]

**The Law is fulfilled in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** [Galatians 5:13-15]

- ✚ Christians are called to liberty from Judaism, but we may not use our liberty as an opportunity for serving the lusts of the flesh.
- ✧ Being set free from the works of Judaism, we are expected to serve one another through love.
- ✧ Love is the fulfillment of the Law. [Galatians 5:14-15, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28, John 15:17]
- ✧ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

**Walk in the Spirit – Avoid lusts of the flesh** [Galatians 5:16-18]

- ✚ Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- ✧ There is a continual war between the Spirit and the flesh because they are contrary to one another preventing you from doing the things you wish.
- ✧ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**Works of the Flesh** [Galatians 5:19-21]

- ✚ Works of the flesh:

✧ Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.

✧ **Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

Evidence of the Spirit [\[Galatians 5:22-23\]](#)

✧ Fruit of the Spirit:

✧ **Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.** Against such there is no law.

Conclusive advise [\[Galatians 5:24-26\]](#)

✧ Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

✧ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

✧ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.