

**Romans 5:3-4:** <sup>3</sup>“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope.” *Suffering teaches us to remain steadfast under pressure. The pressure results from the conflict of good versus evil.*

**Galatians 5:1:** “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9:** <sup>8</sup>“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.” *This gracious gift of salvation is an example of God’s exceedingly rich kindness that is beyond our comprehension.*

**John 8:36:** “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” *Real and complete freedom comes from Jesus alone.*

**Summary of Galatians 5:2-12:** *Reliance on “the law” (like circumcision) for righteousness separates us from Christ and removes the need for God’s grace. True faith is expressed through love and not outward religious acts, self-effort, or works. Paul also cautions against false teachers who plagued the church and warned that they will multiply toward the end of times.*

**Galatians 5:2-3:** <sup>2</sup>“Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup>Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.”

**Galatians 5:4-5:** <sup>4</sup>“You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup>For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” *Jesus received what every person really deserved – death on a cross. By faith, sinners received what he deserved – God’s acceptance and eternal life with Him.*

**2 Timothy 4:8:** “Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.” *We, as believers, persevere because we know that our final salvation and righteousness are guaranteed by God’s faithfulness.*

**Galatians 5:6:** “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

**Galatians 5:7-12:** <sup>7</sup>“You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup>That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. <sup>9</sup>“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” <sup>10</sup>I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. <sup>11</sup>Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. <sup>12</sup>As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

**Galatians 5:16 – “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”**

The Christian life is one of perseverance. *Perseverance* is the steady, faith-filled commitment to trust, obey, and follow God (especially through trials), until His work is complete in you (Romans 5:3-4). In Galatians 5, Paul highlights that false teachers can keep us from enduring and that we must seek the Holy Spirit to overcome our flesh. **Where do you need to let go and live freely?**

**1) Live Free (v1).** Christ paid it all on the cross so that we could live free. Our salvation is a gift – by grace alone (Eph. 2:8-9). We are saved by grace through faith, and we are to live the Christian life the same way. Therefore, because Christ has liberated us to be \_\_\_\_\_, we are to rest and rejoice in Him. We are not called to be \_\_\_\_\_ to idols, the law, or works. Jesus has set us free and we are free indeed (John 8:36). Although we are free from the guilt or penalty of sin (**justification**), we often struggle to be free from the grip or power of sin (**sanctification**). The *Good News* is that we stand accepted today in \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing (yes, nothing) we can do will make Him reject us, if we are in Christ. This is true Liberty!

Christ has freed us through His atoning work. *Atoning* is the act of covering, removing, or paying for sin so that we can be made right with God. It is a glorious freedom. His freedom should lead us to rest in Him and to rejoice in Him in all circumstances. His freedom should cause us to do what He wants us to do, and not to submit to the yoke (burden) of \_\_\_\_\_ (v1).

**Where do you need to live more freely in the saving grace of Christ our Lord?**

**2) Live in the Truth (v2-12).** Living to earn salvation with human achievement religion is slavery. The world will tell us that good \_\_\_\_\_ are the only way to earn approval; that achievement is the only way to earn favor. Paul was adamant that false \_\_\_\_\_ are dangerous and that acceptance of false messages states that Jesus alone is insufficient (v2). If we believe salvation is achieved by obeying “the whole law” (v3), we abandon our belief that salvation is by received as a gift from God by \_\_\_\_\_ alone. “Falling away from grace” (v4) means that we have lost our grasp of grace. This doesn’t mean that we lose our salvation, but we do close the door to Christian growth and God’s blessing, becoming disconnected from \_\_\_\_\_. Accepting false messages from the world will also lead to us losing the hope of future glory (v5). We receive our hope by trusting in \_\_\_\_\_ by grace alone. Being freed from slavery, we live by faith as we, “eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness”. *Righteousness* is ours (2 Cor 5:21), but we await *glorification* with Christ (2 Tim 4:8). **Righteousness** is being made right before God. **Glorification** is the act of God completing His work in us – removing all sin and making us perfect, eternal, and fully like Christ.

The message of false teachers is empty. The teaching of the gospel is rich and full! The gospel is life changing! “Faith expressing itself through love” (v6), not self-effort, is the foundation of Christianity. Good works are the product of our \_\_\_\_\_ through loving service. Works-based righteousness leads to fear, bondage, and despair. We must \_\_\_\_\_ for discernment when faced with false messengers. Paul tells us in verses 7-12 of the pitfalls of listening to false doctrine. They are not from God (v8) and hinder obedience to the truth (v7); they contaminate others (v9) and will be condemned (v10); and they persecute true teachers (v11). If we really care about the gospel and people’s souls, we should be as disgusted as Paul is in v12 by them. We are to \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ’s atoning work alone for salvation. We are to find our righteousness in \_\_\_\_\_ and resist anyone who points us somewhere other than Christ alone. **What inputs do you need to guard more closely or discern more wisely?**

**Galatians 5:13-15:** <sup>13</sup>"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup>If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."

**Matthew 5:17:** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them." *Jesus is the fulfillment of everything the law was pointing toward and through Him, we receive what we could not earn through the law on our own.*

**Galatians 5:16-18:** <sup>16</sup>"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to what whatever you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

**John 14:26:** "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

**Summary of Romans 7:14-25:** *The inner battle between doing good and the reality of sin is real in our daily lives. We cannot win the battle against sin on our own, we need our Savior, Jesus Christ, to set us free.*

**1 Corinthians 10:13:** "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." *Although Christians are not unaffected by temptation, God is bigger than sin.*

**Galatians 5:19-23:** <sup>19</sup>"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

**John 3:16:** "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." *God gave the most extravagant thing He could demonstrate His love for lost humankind to pay the debt for our sin.*

**Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**Galatians 5:24-26:** <sup>24</sup>"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."

**John 13:34-35:** <sup>34</sup>"A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." *Loving one another is the way the world sees Christ and His followers (us).*

3) **Live to Love and Serve (13-15).** The gift of \_\_\_\_\_ does not mean that we are free TO sin (v13) which causes divisions from church and God (v15), it means we are free FROM sin. We are still to live by God's "moral law" as we find freedom to love and to serve others well. In "loving your neighbor as yourself" (v14), we must remember that keeping the entire law for our **justification** is unattainable, but thankfully \_\_\_\_\_ fulfilled it for us (Matt 5:17). Through faith in Him and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are free to live out the moral teaching of the law as we are changed and empowered to obey \_\_\_\_\_. **How does your freedom in Christ lead you to a life of love and service for one another?**

4) **Walk by the Spirit (v16-18).** In Galatians 5:16, to "walk by the Spirit" highlights the need to live constantly by the power of the \_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit was given to us as a gift Who lives \_\_\_\_\_ us as a Helper, Teacher, and Counselor (John 14:26). For the Christian, to "walk by the Spirit" is to literally follow our Teacher around, listening to His Word, discerning His will, and following His guidance as a natural / normal part of our life. We must yield to our Lord daily so that we do not "gratify the desires of the flesh" (v16). The \_\_\_\_\_ and the Spirit are in an intense battle with one another (v17), so it is critical that we commit to walking with the \_\_\_\_\_ and realize the seriousness of the battle (Rom 7:14-25). We are constantly being tempted by the world, the enemy, and the flesh. Be diligent, sisters, and know that "God is faithful" (1 Cor 10:13). The battle is within our hearts, and we will only find true harmony by seeking wisdom and strength from our Lord. **What heart issues are fueling the battle between your flesh and the Spirit?** Being led by the Spirit (v18) brings a new way of life. We are led toward new desires and power to please God through the Fruit of the Spirit. Let us live in the freedom God so graciously grants.

5) **Observe the Obvious (v19-23).** Not walking with the Spirit is evident in our actions as Paul outlines in verses 19-21. These are works of the flesh and include sinful desires and actions related to sex, religion (idolatry), relationships, and indulgences. Thankfully God provides us with the opportunity to thrive through the virtues of the Fruit of His \_\_\_\_\_ in "*love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*" (v22). As we abide in Christ, the Fruit of the Spirit is produced in us. The fruit represents characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_ and to bear fruit is to make us more like Him (**sanctification**), the One who embodies TRUE LOVE (John 3:16, Rom 5:8). Fruit is produced in us over time, as we yield to the \_\_\_\_\_ and put to death the \_\_\_\_\_. **How is the Fruit of the Spirit evident in your life?**

6) **Remember the Good News (v24-26).** When we intentionally, purposefully trust in \_\_\_\_\_ alone for salvation, our flesh is crucified and we are united with HIM as a new creation and are delivered from the evil of this world (v24). Are we still tempted to sin? Absolutely, yes. Thank you, Jesus, for winning the battle for us and delivering us (Rom 7:24-25). We belong to Him! Still, we must actively follow the Spirit and seek out His guidance (v25). Victory comes through surrender to Christ, not self-effort. We must faithfully and diligently live out God's moral law by \_\_\_\_\_ one another as He has loved us (John 13:34-35). **In what ways can you love others more like Christ?**

A Spirit-led life will lead to fruitfulness and will be seen through practical acts of love and service, and not in the fleshly act of being "conceited, provoking one another, envying one another" (v26). We become spiritually mature by bearing \_\_\_\_\_ and growing as God's adopted \_\_\_\_\_, but first we must *Walk by the Spirit*.

**The Christian life is a Spirit-led life as we love and serve one another, walking daily by the Spirit.**