

## Protect your Freedom

### Galatians 5:1-16

Intro: The apostle Paul writes this letter to the church in Galatia to refute false teachers called Judaizers, who were teaching the churches that salvation by grace through faith alone was not enough. They were teaching that the new believers needed to add the old testament requirements of the law in order to walk in right relationship with God. In short, they were trying to add to the Gospel message. The Gospel message is simply the good news that Jesus Christ purchased our Salvation on the Cross and that he was resurrected on the third day. The righteous requirements of God were fulfilled through Jesus and we are declared right with God solely based upon what Jesus did for us. **Acts 15:1-12 records the historical setting of this event.** (Book of Galatians is called the Magna Carta of the Reformation. It is the book on which the protestant Reformation was founded the key verse being **Gal 2:16 (NASB)** 16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

**What was at stake in the Galatian church was their relationship with God.**

**Gal 1:6-10 (NASB)** 6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

**Gal 5:1-6 (NASB)** 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive **circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.** 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

The importance of this cannot be overstated! We're talking salvation! We are talking about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are talking about living in the Freedom by which Christ set us Free. It was for Freedom that we were set Free! In other words, we are not just saved from wages of Sin, Death, but we are also redeemed by the Lord to walk in Freedom.

**Freedom from what? Freedom for what?**

1. Freed from the penalty of our sin. Christ paid our sin debt! We receive forgiveness, we are declared not guilty, we receive right relationship with God. We have fellowship with God the father, we are no longer slaves to sin.
2. We have Freedom from Fear. **Heb 2:14-15 (NASB)** 14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
3. Freedom to serve the Lord. Freedom is provided by Jesus, but it is made real in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. **Gal 3:1-3 (NASB)** 1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? **Gal 5:25 (NASB)** 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we receive the power to love, to serve, to have peace, to have joy...**Gal 5:22-24 (NASB)** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

All of this is from God...**2 Cor 5:18-19 (NIV)** 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

### **So how do I protect this Freedom that God has given me.**

Gal 5:1 (NASB) 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

1 **By Faith...** Gal 3:1-9 (NASB) 1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain— if indeed it was in vain? 5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

2. **The Power of the Holy Spirit** operating in your lives, specifically through prayer. Galatians 3:1-5 He helps us to pray according to Romans 8:26.

3. **The Word of God.** Read the instructions! Faith comes by hearing the word of God...Romans 10:17, the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit of God. Ephesians 6:17.

4. **Maintaining the right relationships!** Our relationship with God, of course. But what I am talking about involves our vertical relationships. The enemy had crept in through false teachers threatening to ruin the church at Galatia's relationship with God. Paul ask two important questions here in this book!

**Galatians 3:1 (NASB)** 1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

**Galatians 5:7-10 (NASB)** 7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. 10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is.

Notice that the word does not say "what hindered you" but "who hindered you." This bad influence is like leaven working through a batch of dough. It spreads throughout the dough effecting the whole." He states the same thing to the church in Corinth in 1 Cor. 5. You have someone among you living a godless life, identifying himself with the believers...get rid of that relationship.

When you look at what these individuals were doing, you find some common false teaching- themes.

1. **False teaching that Christ Jesus is not enough!** They were basically teaching/living in a way which stated by their lives and their belief that Jesus Christ was not enough. Any relationship that takes you further away from the truth of Christ or your relationship with Christ is bondage.

2. **False teaching that places human ability/or intellect above the work of the Holy Spirit. Gal 3:2-5 (NASB)**  
2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain— if indeed it was in vain? 5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?  
**Galatians 5:16** “walk by the Spirit...” **Vs. 25**, If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

Anything or anyone who diminishes the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in your life is by default an assailant to your freedom and spiritual health, the Life of God. Salvation is a miracle, our life is Jesus is a miracle! We need the power of God in our lives! If we deny the supernatural power of God in our lives, then we resign ourselves to man centered and man empowered religion. The work of human flesh.

**2 Tim 3:1-5 (NASB)** 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

How can 2 walk together unless they are in agreement!

3. **False teaching that says you can honor God while dishonoring your brother!** Gal 5:13-15 (NASB) 13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, " You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

## Conclusion

Read the instructions!