

You Who Are Spiritual; Galatians 6:1-5

I. Spiritual

A. "One who possesses the Holy Spirit" (BDAG)

B. "You who possess the Holy Spirit"

1. Brothers — He is addressing the churches in Galatia — this term means 'close affinity, fellow member, one who shares beliefs'
2. There is no gender here — he is writing to every member of the congregations in the region of Galatia — "to the churches of Galatia" (ch. 1 v. 2)
3. Most Scholars I reviewed think Paul is writing to the churches in the region of southern Galatia — Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe
 - a) He established these churches on his first journey
 - b) Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV); ⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble 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 the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
4. Some think he is writing to churches in the region of northern Galatia
5. Either way, the message is the same

C. Restore those who have fallen away, bear one another's burdens, and be humble

II. Restoration

A. This is always such a tough thing to do

1. Some feel they don't have the right to interfere in someone else's life
2. Some feel they can't because of their own transgression (the log versus the mote)
 - a) Matthew 7:4–5 (ESV); ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
 - b) The admonishment is to address your own sin, then address your brethren's sin
 - c) To do nothing about either is wrong
 - d) Some might even say that we would never need restoration since it is impossible for us to become 'un-saved' once we have been redeemed

B. It is possible for us remove ourselves from God's saving grace

C. The only thing that is not conditional is God's love for us

D. All of God's promises are conditional

1. Colossians 1:21–23 (ESV); ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
2. 1 Timothy 1:18–20 (ESV); ¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

E. The Gospel is about restoration — Jesus restoring us to a right relationship with God

F. Those who have left that relationship still need restoring — it is incumbent upon us to be the vehicle of that restoration

G. We must be the kind of people that restore broken relationships!

1. Our Scriptures are full of exhortations to bring those who have left God back to Him

2. James 5:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.
3. 1 Corinthians 5:1–2 (ESV); ¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.
4. 2 Corinthians 2:6–8 (ESV); ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

III. In Humility

A. "In a spirit of gentleness"

1. Some translations use the word humility
2. This is where we get it so wrong (and what the log and speck are speaking to)
3. We get up on our self-righteous soap box and preach down at people instead of 'in a spirit of gentleness' or humility
4. I've seen full page ads from churches condemning other churches for their perceived sinful behavior
5. I've been the victim of this as well — I received a letter from a church in south Texas disfellowshipping me for perceived sinful behavior
6. It would be so much better if we were to wrap our arms around the sinner, empathize with the difficulty of resisting temptation and offer to help our dear brother or sister overcome their sin

B. We are even supposed to correct others and present the Gospel in "a spirit of gentleness"

1. 2 Timothy 2:24–25 (ESV); ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,
2. 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV); ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

C. Our task is restoration, reconciliation, and that means presenting the Gospel to those around us and restoring those who have fallen away in a spirit of gentleness

IV. Tempted

- A. A humble spirit will always help us remain strong against temptation
- B. We are our brothers' keeper — we must watch out for each other
- C. We continue to proclaim God's message of restoration to the lost