

VICTORY BY THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16-25

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Christ came to set us free. **Free from the Law, but NOT to live LAWLESS!**

We have been saved from the “**Power of Sin**”, but not from the “**Presence of Sin**”.

Galatians 5:16-17 We have an intense battle going on inside us ALL THE TIME!

Galatians 5:18 Led by the Spirit keeps you out from under the Law.
The Law is about external realities that indicate an internal problem.
When the heart is motivated by love following the Spirit, its not under the Law.

Romans 7:18-25 Only in Christ are we delivered to walk by faith in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21 Acts of the flesh.

Sexual sins: Sexual immorality, impurity and sensuality

Religious sins: Idolatry and witchcraft

Attitude sins: Hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy

Self-Medicating sins: Drunkenness and orgies

And “the like” sins: This is anything you give yourself to for fullness of life other than Jesus.

Warning: If any of these are habitual practice rather than infrequent and repented-of lapses, then you are on a path leading away from the kingdom of God!

Galatians 5:22-23 Fruit of the Spirit
“Fruit” growth is symmetrical, holistic.

Love: It means to serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you. It’s opposite is fear, self-protection and abusing people. Its counterfeit is selfish affection, where you are attracted to someone and treat them well because of how they make you feel about yourself.

Joy: A delight in God for the sheer beauty and worth of who He is. Its opposite is hopelessness or despair, and its counterfeit is an elation that is based on experiencing blessing, not the Blessor, causing mood swings based on circumstances.

Peace: Meaning a confidence and rest in the wisdom and control of God, rather than in your own. It replaces anxiety and worry. The fake version of peace is indifference, apathy, not caring about something.

Patience: An ability to face trouble without blowing up or striking out. Its opposite is resentment toward God and others, and its counterfeits are cynicism or lack of care.

Kindness: This is an ability to serve others practically in a way which makes me vulnerable, which comes from having a deep inner security. Its opposite is envy, which leaves me unable to rejoice in another’s joy. And its

fake alternative is manipulative good deeds, doing good for others so I can congratulate myself and feel I am “good enough” for others or for God.

Goodness [integrity]: This is being the same person in every situation, rather than a phony or a hypocrite. This is not the same as being always truthful but not always loving; getting things off your chest just to make yourself feel or look better.

Faithfulness [loyalty, courage]: To be utterly reliable and true to your word. Its opposite is to be an opportunist, a friend only in good times. And its counterfeit is to be loving but not truthful, so that you are never willing to confront or challenge.

Gentleness: Humble and self-forgetful. The opposite is to be superior or self-absorbed. Humility is not the same as inferiority.

Self-control: The ability to pursue the important over the urgent, rather than to be always impulsive or uncontrolled. The slightly surprising counterfeit is a willpower which is based on pride, the need to feel in control.

[Definitions by Tim Keller]

Galatians 5:23b Against such things there is no law. These are slices of God’s character.

Galatians 5:24 Crucifixion is a slow die to yourself process.

Walking by the Spirit is like growing a good garden. It takes long term persistence of preparing the soil, planting, fertilizing, watering, weeding and trusting God will grow the produce.