

09.22.24

## Galatians

### Chapter 5 - Christ Sets Free Free from Law (vs.22-23)

**Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

I like the way that passage ends, “against such things there is no law.” No more law. That's pretty great, isn't it? That's what he's been talking about.

If you look in Galatians 5:1,

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

You wonder why people feel so frustrated and angry and miserable most of the time? Why they feel hopeless and disappointed in their lives? What is it that causes that? I

would say it's probably because they're living in the flesh. He's already stated within the passage in Chapter 5 that there are the deeds of the flesh, and it really is in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:19) “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

(Galatians 5:20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

(Galatians 5:21) envying, drunkenness, carousing...”

And people wonder why they're not happy. I can't see anything in there that would really actually make you joyful. As Paul so aptly puts it in Romans 6, which of the sins have actually benefited you? Really, there are no sins that benefit us. The passage is telling us that the way of the flesh is the way of misery.

What's also interesting is, and I don't know if you noticed the contrast of the two, but he starts off in verse 19,

(Galatians 5:19) “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident...”

He doesn't say the fruit of the flesh is evident, he says, “the deeds of the flesh,” and the word that he uses “*ergon*” is

making reference to work, labor; making reference to something that is hard to do. In other words, we live a life laboring; we live a life of disappointment. Literally, we live a life working for nothing. There's nothing more frustrating than working really hard and coming at the end of the day going, "It was for nothing. I did it for nothing."

(Galatians 6:7) "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."

(Galatians 6:8) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption..."

If you work for the flesh, you work for nothing, and I think that's one of the frustrations that we see in the Book of Ecclesiastes is he goes, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity! Why am I working so hard? I'm going to get a whole bunch of treasures and I'm going to leave them to an idiot? It just doesn't make any sense." So, the point is that everything he perceived he was doing was for naught, and that just makes the work that much more laborious. But the contrast is, if you look in Galatians 5:22, not the deeds of the Spirit, but "the fruit of the Spirit." Now, the contrast is to demonstrate to us that the word he uses, "*karpos*" is to convey that there is actually something productive that we're doing. He's really

wanting to emphasize within the text that you're yielding something; you're bringing in something profitable in your life. There's posterity that's coming in, and all of these things are going to be effectual in your life. So, it gives your life purpose. It gives your life meaning, and you realize, "I'm not doing this for nothing." The way that Jesus puts it to the disciples in John 15 is "How would you like to work for food that lasts forever?" You go, "Wow, that's cool." So, the fruit that you're going to yield is going to be an abundance forever and it's going to actually bring greater yield throughout your life and beyond. You think about people that have ministered and have come and gone, and their ministry still goes on. The thought is, what about what about the rewards? The rewards are still accumulating. How wonderful it is that as we begin to minister in the Spirit, as the Spirit begins to work through us, that we're actually investing in things that are eternal. So, as we come to this passage, we begin to realize something wonderful, and that is that there's a great freedom, but that freedom also is that we're not sitting around doing nothing. We're not unproductive. We're really free from an unproductive life. Now, as we've looked at Scripture, we realized that there's

no law which is basically saying that there's no sense of oppressive control or rules or regulations that are actually delegating our lives. The thing that's delegating our life is the spirit of "want to." I feel so bad so many times because I see people so worried about what everybody else is thinking, and I think one of the key points of Galatians is stop worrying about everybody that thinks they're really somebody. You're not going to stand before them, you're going to stand before God. So, why don't you start working on pleasing Him. As Ephesians 5 will say, "Trying to learn what is pleasing to Him," but how imprisoning it is to be concerned with what everybody else is thinking and to be under that oppression of their expectations.

There's a passage in 2 Corinthians 10, and within this chapter, Paul is saying, "I minister in the sense of meekness and humility. I mean, you're looking at me and you're going, "You're not really anybody special." He goes, "I know." A lot of times somebody says that to us, and we try to explain ourselves; we try to look better; we try to tell everybody all of our accomplishments. "When I went to this school or that school." But he doesn't go into that, he goes, "I know."

(2 Corinthians 10:10) “For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.””

I was talking to somebody this last week and I said, “Who would you like to see in heaven?” They said, “Well, you know, I think if I saw Paul, I'd be disappointed. If I saw Jesus, that would be a wonderful thing,” We know that Paul has been transformed, but the point is, if we were to see Paul on the earth, we'd go, “Really, this is the guy?” And the same thing is true in some ways, as far as the personal appearance of Jesus. I mean, He had no stately form or majesty that we should look on Him.

If you look at this passage, he's trying to deal with the Corinthians, and he states to them, “You're looking at things as they are outwardly,” and we have a tendency to do that, but he goes on and says this in verse 12, it's a wonderful verse,

(22 Corinthians 10:12) “For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.”

I think of people and how miserable they begin to feel because they're always looking at how they look to somebody else or how somebody else looks on them, and this passage is saying that if you're walking in the Spirit, you're free from all these things. You're free from the law. You're free from the regulations that a man would put on you. You're free from external compulsion and you're free as well from your internal impulses. That is to say, that impulse of guilt and regret. The gospel actually sets you free from that because there are things that you did, you go, "Wow." Then, when you have somebody else that seems to be so much better. And there's a lot of people out there that if you don't think that they're better, they'll tell you and begin to explain just how wonderful they are. As they begin to do that, you just feel so much smaller. Scripture says, "What are you doing listening to that? This has nothing to do with you. What is important is that you walk in the Spirit of My love, that you are accepted; you are loved." This is the wonder of our gospel within the passage. So, we're literally free from the condemnation of man. Of course, we oftentimes read Romans 8:1 as well as when you consider 1 John 4, in which it literally states that perfect love casts out fear. Then, he

goes on and explains, because with fear there is this concern of judgment. We don't have any more judgment in Christ. How wonderful it is that that's our salvation. That's what our faith is about. So, we're free from the condemnation of man. We're free from the condemnation of judgment. We're free from literally the failures of our own lives and the things that would be brought up within our own thoughts and our own minds. Sometimes you're lying in bed, you're thinking, "Wow, wow. Did I really mess up today." And God goes, "Did you confess it to Me?" And we go, "You mean I just need to confess it to You?" Our thought is we have to go around the whole world and apologize for everything we've done, and I would say sometimes that's a good thing; sometimes a really bad thing. Have you ever apologized to somebody, and they go, "I didn't know you were mad at me" and you go, "Ok, I shouldn't have brought that up." But the fact that you confess your sins before the Lord, it says that He is faithful and just to forgive you of your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Now, man can't do that; man can't forgive your sins. You're clean. How wonderful is that?



So, a fear of failure, of wasted life and meaningless life. Man has his opinion of the way that you should walk, but what does it matter? Basically, the fundamental statement of Galatians 2, right? In Galatians 2, there was a concern that there are people of reputation, but Paul writes in Galatians 2:6,

“But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) ...”

We're so worried about what man thinks and we actually become imprisoned and confined to what he thinks rather than allowing the love of God to motivate us. If the love of God is motivating you and not guilt and regret, then that's a greater power. It can literally overcome these things. Let me just say this too, that I think one of the reasons why people are miserable is not only are they not walking in the Spirit, but they're walking in the sense of they're a victim of what everybody else does to them. Why aren't you ministering? Why aren't you happy? “Well, you don't know what this person did to me.” So what? What they did to you makes no difference, if in fact you're walking in the Spirit of God because the Spirit of God is what constrains us; it moves us;

it motivates us; it causes us to love. He causes us to love. The problem is that we're matching ourselves with what people think. Then, I would say the last thing within this that God literally frees us from is a burdensome work. You know when you start serving and it just becomes so laborious? God says, "You want to be free from that?" and you go, "Yeah, because I'm getting really tired of doing this." You read the Book of Malachi, and it reads basically, as they're coming to worship God, they're going, "How tiresome it is that we're having to do this." And I'm saying, if you're saying it's tiresome, you're not in the Spirit and God doesn't want your ministry. He's very clear in Isaiah 1, "Why are you trampling in My courts? What brings you here? You don't want to be here. I don't want you here if you don't want to be here." That's fundamentally what God is saying. So, where the Spirit of God is, there's not this sense of laboring in this, and you're not working for nothing.

I think of a passage like Ephesians 5:6 which talks about empty words.

Philippians 2:3, talks about empty pride.

Colossians 2:8 talks about empty philosophies.

1 Timothy 6:20 talks about empty chatter.

It's saying that you're spending your life doing nothing, and the reason you're doing nothing is you're walking in the flesh. Every time you walk in the flesh, you're wasting your life away. You're literally wasting your life away and everything you're doing is for nothing, is to be consumed, as Scripture tells us. The contrast within the text is very different, and you see that service becomes something that you obviously want to do because your heart's been changed.

Let's just go through the list. I think it's important sometimes just to just to reflect upon what he's talking about here and I just want to reiterate and emphasize in Galatians 5:22,

“But the fruit of the Spirit...”

We're talking about something that is productive and will yield something effectual. We're not just working. We're actually yielding something that will work.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is...”

What's the first one? Yeah, “love”. That's a word that's used in so many ways by people in so many different kinds of

context, but Scripture is making reference to something that is very unselfish, clearly; something that is really described, probably best in 1 Corinthians 13.

If you would look with me in 1 Corinthians 13, I want to emphasize the fact that He's fundamentally saying if in fact you're not doing what you're doing out of love, you are wasting your time. Let's read it, just the first few verses.

(1 Corinthians 13:1) “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love...”

No music. I don't care how melodic you think you are, how wonderful you think you are in your music, it sounds terrible. I've seen some extremely good talent in music, but you get to know the person, there's not a melody in them. When you take away the heart of a song, it has no meaning.

“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

(1 Corinthians 13:2) If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love...”

That's the Spirit. There's no Spirit in it.

“...I am nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:3) And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

You're working for nothing. If you're not doing what you're doing in the Spirit of God, you're literally wasting your life.

1 Corinthians 16 says do all that you do out of love. If we would just think this way, because there are so many decisions that we have to make throughout our life; work and wrestle through these decisions that we have to make, like “Should I buy Pickles or not?” I mean, just very complicated things that cause us to stay up at night. As we begin to work through these particular issues, there's one question we don't ask ourselves; the one question that we don't ask ourselves is, “Am I doing this out of love? Is it love that's compelling me to do this, or is it something else?” And if you just ask that simple question, because we know that love does not seek its own, we know that love is not offended, does not take into account a wrong suffered. Have you taken into account a wrong suffered? Then, you're doing it for the wrong reasons. You've just wasted an opportunity to do something forever. That fruit can only come from the Spirit. Productivity, effectual service can only come by the

Spirit of God, which is obviously love. There has to be this eternal moving that brings about eternal fruit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...”

As opposed to what? Depression. What would cause me to be joyful? Why would I be joyful? Scripture tells us that we can rejoice in the Lord always. I'm not always really happy about the circumstances that I'm in. I should be content, but I can't always be happy about the circumstances, but I can always rejoice because I know that God is in control. I can always rejoice, knowing that whatever is brought into my life is a good thing. Even trials in my life is a good thing because God is actually deepening me. He's causing me to have a greater sense of integrity and character, but beyond that, God has given me a stronger faith and a closer relationship with Him. I have found that when I'm not in a trial, I'm a little cavalier about my walk with God. Nothing will get you on your knees and get you close to God like a trial, and when you begin to feel close to God, isn't that the greatest moment in your life? That's something to rejoice about, I think it's an occasion for rejoicing. Really, when he uses this particular word in the text, it is making reference to a cause or an occasion for rejoicing. So, he's saying that the

outpouring or that which is productive in your life by the Spirit of God controlling your life, is that you can begin to have in every circumstance and situation a cause and an occasion for rejoicing, as opposed to, Philippians 4, anxious living. Be anxious for nothing, but with thanksgiving, you can begin to rejoice in this. Is that possible? Isn't that the book that he says, "rejoice always"? Here again, what's the other end of this? In other words, what's antithetical to that? Well, it's not only not rejoicing, but also depression; it's anxiety.

Why are people anxious? "Somebody made me anxious." No, you're not a victim. You're free from this in the Spirit of God. The power of God, by you receiving His Son will free you from being a victim of what everybody else says, what everybody else thinks; the things that they do to you, and the effect that it has on you. It no longer has an effect on me. I mean, you feel bad that somebody is miserable, and you feel bad that they're wanting to make other people miserable. I feel bad about that, but it doesn't take away my joy. My joy is in the Lord, and I know that God will even take that misery of that person if in fact I'll walk in faith and I'll walk in trust. He'll begin to do a work that goes beyond what I can even ask or think. I don't have to solve the world's

problems, and I don't have to change their minds. I can be joyful. That's the fruit of the Spirit.

“The fruit of the Spirit is...peace.”

If you look at the passage, “*eirēnē*” is the word that he uses, which basically is “feeling safe and secure.” I think one of the reasons once again, why we feel so upset a lot of times is we just don't feel safe and secure. Maybe we've been investing in the wrong thing to make us feel safe and secure. Maybe there's actually a better insurance policy than the one we have, the sense of walking in the favor of God. I have found that when I'm just simply obeying His word and walking in the life of His Son, in other words, if I do the things that are pleasing to the Father, I have a sense of feeling safe and secure from all alarm. I really do. “What's going to happen if this happens?” Well, the world is fundamentally alarmists. “I guess I'm going to die someday.” That's pretty scary thought, but I know where I'm going. So, then I'm not scared. What's the worst that could happen? They torture me? I get more rewards for that. We're in a no-lose situation. We're followers of Christ. If we go through suffering, Peter goes, “The glory of God rests on you. That's



the greatest day in your whole life.” If we don't have trials, that's ok too, but it doesn't matter anymore. It's our walk with Christ. Think about how freeing that is. It's that anxiety, fear, anger, hate, and all these things that just weigh you down and you can't move. You can't talk to anybody. You can't hug anybody. Doesn't it make you stiff when you're just so upset? Have you ever tried to hug somebody that was upset? “Come on, let's talk.” You just can't do it.

“Love, joy, peace...” What's the next one that he puts in here?

“Patience.” (*makrothymia*)

“*makro*,” meaning “long;” “*thymia*” meaning “passion.”

I think the way that King James translated it is “long-suffering” which would probably be the translation within the text. It's basically, enduring patiently, undaunted by the troubles and ills that surrounded us. “Aren't you upset?”

“No, not really.” “Well, you know, you have good reason.”

“Well, that's what people say, but God's got this.” You see, the point isn't that I have the ability to be patient. The point is that when the Spirit of God is in me, I have every

confidence in Him that He's doing well and going to do good in my life. I just have every confidence that that's true. Why are people impatient? I guess because they feel like they deserve more, they deserve better, but what if God was giving you exactly what was best for you at this particular moment? If you actually believe that, would you ever be impatient? Whatever happened, would you ever have this sense of, "I'm really getting uptight here?" like a #9 on the tension scale? Would you ever get there? The fact of the matter is, you would never be there because we actually believe that God's got this and there's not only a patience in our own spirit, but I do think it's interesting because you see "love, joy, peace; those seem more internal. By the time you get to "patience," now, that seems like fruit that people see in your own life. I could have a peace inside, but people are going to see more of my patience towards them, and they're going to like that fruit. Scripture is saying that this is going to be evidential in your life and people are going to wonder, "Why are you not frazzled? Why are you not upset? Why are you not kicking and screaming like everybody else is?" And you're going to say, "Why? I don't need to."

“Kindness” is a great word within the particular passage, referring to *“chrēstotēs,”* and probably referring more towards “moral excellence.” It’s very interesting why this would be true, because we oftentimes don’t tie the two together. In fact, we actually live in a world and a time in which people perceive kindness by maybe doing what they perceive to be benevolent or generous acts, but Scripture will tie it more towards morality. I would say that the unkindest act that you could display would be an act of infidelity. So, integrity and morality are inextricably tied together. You can't say somebody has integrity and live immorally. It's impossible; it’s a dichotomy. So, the passage is really clear that kindness, these two are inextricably tied together, that the kindness of somebody, the morality of somebody, is definitely the part of the excellence of a life.

“Goodness” is dealing with somebody that is pleasant and honorable in nature.

“Faithfulness” obviously is dealing with somebody that you can trust, one who has moral convictions and once again,

one who has desires to be faithful. So, the whole faithfulness thing is once again tied to the sense of kindness. You're beginning to sense things that matter, if I could put it that way. If in fact you're walking in patience, you're walking in kindness. You're walking in goodness and faithfulness.

You're actually producing things not only in your life, but in other people's lives that's going to have a lasting effect. I've oftentimes thought about people that have had a lasting effect in my life, and when I began to look at these qualities, this fruit, I began to realize why they had a lasting effect in my life. I mean, there are a lot of people that pass by and pass through our lives, yet who really seems to make a difference? You begin to see these qualities and you go, "That touched my life." I mean, you want to influence people for eternity, right?

"Gentleness," which really is a spirit of humility; somebody that is not bragging about themselves. Once again, you can sit around and talk to somebody that pretty much loves themselves and wants to tell you about how wonderful they are, but you're not going to remember that relationship. You won't feel tied to that person but sit down with a person

that seems to be concerned about you, wants to talk about you, cares about what you're going through, there seems to be a depth about this, and it actually touches your heart. That's a person that has a gentle spirit.

A person with “self-control” is basically somebody that can master their own desires. Somebody that can master their own passions. So, they're not controlled by the passions that they have, but they can do that which is right.

The text ends,

“...against such things there is no law.”

In other words, if you looked with me in Romans 13, I like the way that he starts off in this particular text because he's dealing with the fact that you need to be subject to governing authority, but then he kind of ends with the fact that you need to render people things that are due to them. Then, he comes into this verse,

(Romans 13:8) “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another...”

Well, that says it all, doesn't it? “Owe nothing to anyone.” I think of Psalm 37:21, which says,

“The wicked borrows and does not pay back,  
But the righteous is gracious and gives.”

You have the contrast of the taker and the giver. The Spirit of God is not wanting to be beholding but always wanting to be the giver.

Romans 13:8 goes on and says,

“... for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

Once again, in the context of loving your neighbor, he's put in it and telling us that true love is not going to be taking.

(Romans 13:9) “For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.””

Very simple. The fact that he brings it down to one simple statement is convicting because we think in terms of, “I got to remember everything I can't do, and I got to remember everything I can do.” And God says, “Why don't you just love them?” If you think about it too, the Law, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL

NOT STEAL...” That's the law, right? No one ever says to somebody else, “I'm in law with you.” You know why? Because the law is not a feeling; it's not an emotion; it has no heart in it. It's just a bunch of dos and don'ts. Love is not only something you do, but also something that you feel as well.

It goes on and says,

(Romans 13:10) “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Fundamentally, once again it's what Paul says in Galatians. If you're doing such things as the spirit of love, there is no law. There's no need for law.

Matthew reads this way, if you look at Matthew 22, when Jesus is dealing with the issues of man and the Pharisees, of course, trying to trip him up once again.

(Matthew 22:34) “But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

(Matthew 22:35) One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

(Matthew 22:36) “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?””

Now, immediately if in fact you were a lawyer or a Pharisee, you would be thinking especially the text of Exodus 20.

Exodus 20 begins the Ten Commandments, and in the Ten Commandments, you would extrapolate the greatest law. It just makes sense. Jesus doesn't go to Exodus 20, He quotes both out of Deuteronomy 6 and Leviticus 19, and I'm going to tell you why as we go on, but if you look at the passage, it goes on and says this,

(Matthew 22:37) And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART...”

It's not in the Ten Commandments. It's in Deuteronomy 6 and it's Moses turning to people as they're getting ready to go into the Promised Land. He's going, “Guys, let me tell you what you really need to do. You need to love God. You love God, and it'll be ok.” You think Pharisees are walking in love? They're all about the categorizing of laws, and Jesus just wipes them out with one phrase, “You need to love God with all your heart. That's what you need to do.” and they can't argue with that.



“... ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

(Matthew 22:38) “This is the great and foremost commandment.

(Matthew 22:39) “The second is like it...”

And He quotes out of Leviticus 19, which in the context, the law is saying you can't hate your brother in your heart, but it goes on and says you can't take vengeance on him. What are some of the ways we take vengeance on people? Well, I guess you could get a gun and shoot them. I'm not trying to give you ideas, but beyond that, our thoughts can come out in which we go, “Well, I'm just not going to talk to them anymore. I'm going to shun them. I'm going to do this, or I'm going to do that” and we begin to try to control in that respect; try to beat them together with guilt. Some of us are really good at guiltning people to death.

It goes on and says,

“The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

How would you like to be treated?

(Matthew 22:40) “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

It's almost like God gives us a secret to speed reading. Do you want to know the whole Old Testament? Love God and love one another. It's the whole Old Testament. It's what God wants you to do. Scripture is talking about the Spirit, not the work, and how the Spirit of God really brings this kind of productivity.

I want to close with a passage, it's found in 2 Peter 1. In 2 Peter, Peter's wanting to convey to those that are going through trials and going through tribulations, what really is important and obviously within the text, he emphasizes the Divine nature in us. His statement is,

(2 Peter 1:2) “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

The more you realize who God is, the more you begin to embrace who He is and the more you begin to live who He is.

It goes on and says,

(2 Peter 1:3) “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...”

His divine power. It's His power in us that does this.

“... through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

(2 Peter 1:4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world...”

which is just making you miserable and tying you in bondage and causing you to worry and be upset and miserable. You don't have to be there.

(2 Peter 1:5) “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith...”

Put your trust in God.

“... supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

(2 Peter 1:6) and in your knowledge, self-control...”

As Paul says, “and such things as these,” it's almost as if we're hearing the fruit of the Spirit in this.

“And in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, (2 Peter 1:7) and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

(2 Peter 1:8) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

You go, “Ok. So, what you're saying is, if I'm walking in the Spirit, I'll never be unfruitful, I'll never be unproductive?” And I would say, yes, and if you're walking in the Spirit, you'll have a sense of joy and peace in your life and because of that you'll be long-suffering towards others and you'll show true kindness towards other people. People say, “I've been listening to God. I've been talking to God, and He led me to leave my wife.” No, God didn't tell you to do that. That's not kindness. It's not the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God wouldn't tell you to do such a thing. So, all of these things are beginning to reveal that the Spirit of God in us is always going to do that which is kind and gentle and wonderful, but it's also going to produce good things and beneficial things in the lives of those people around us.

Peter makes a statement here and I just want to call your attention to it as he begins to write to them, and he begins to share with them. It seems like he's actually written these things before to them.

(2 Peter 1:12) “Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you...”

He'll go on to say a little bit further, “It is no problem for me to remind you again.”

In fact, Paul will write this in Philippians 3:1,

“...To write the same things again is no trouble to me...”

And you say, “Why is Scripture telling us this?” Because it's telling us that these men are now walking in the Spirit. We all fall, and we all falter in some way and inevitably I've had people come up to me and say, “I know I've dealt with this problem before, but I'm coming again.” I said, “It's no problem.” If I were to say, “This is a real problem, it's really wearing on me. I'm really getting uptight about this,” I'm not walking in the Spirit. But if I'm walking in the Spirit, shouldn't I always be ready to help?

Paul will state in 2 Corinthians 12:15, "I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls." That's the Spirit of God within us, that He actually gives us things to do that are not only productive, but don't wear us out, and we can't be worn out, if in fact we're walking in the Spirit. We can't get overly frustrated with people if in fact we're walking in the Spirit. It's like I can feel the Spirit of God going, "You know, you have another day to actually make a difference? You're not going to be angry about doing this, are you?" And I'm going, "I can't be." I have another moment to breathe good in the life of somebody else. I could actually maybe encourage and strengthen and point them to the word of God that can free them from all these things that are so weighing them down; the sins that so easily besets them. God has given us such a wonderful message and such a wonderful Spirit that moves us. How do you know you're not walking in the Spirit? You're miserable. How do you know you're not walking in the Spirit? You're begrudging everything that you're doing. How do you know you're not walking in the Spirit? You're not doing it for God. You're doing it for somebody else, or you're doing it for yourself. Start doing everything you do for Him and see if the Spirit of

God doesn't empower you to do it. The decision to do it for is yours; the power that comes from that is His.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father, we give You thanks for Your power and Your strength that comes into our life if we surrender our lives to you, as we walk in the Spirit, your Spirit, the Spirit of Your Son. The Spirit says, "Dad, I just want to do what pleases You, My Father." I have to admit that when I first read that, I thought, "Well, what about my life?" Forgive me of that, because I realize that is life to me. When I live the life that You call me to live, it is joy; it is peace. I begin to feel these things that I never felt before seeking my own way and being selfish in my own pursuits.

With your heads bowed and your eyes closed, I'm asking you to get free. Stop being concerned about everybody else; just get right with God. Please Him in all that you do. Get free from what people think. Stop comparing yourself with everybody else. God made you different for a reason.

Rejoice in what God's given you and walk in a way that is just pleasing to Him in every aspect of your life. If you'll do that, your life will change.