

Led By The Spirit

No. 144

Introduction.

I. In the 6th chapter of the book of Galatians Paul penned these words.

6 Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. ²Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. ³For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. ⁴But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. ⁵For each man shall bear his own burden. ⁶But let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. ⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith. ASV

A. These verses are very closely related to what Paul wrote in the 5th chapter of Galatians.

B. In chapter 5 Paul discussed two types of lives. One life was led by the Spirit of God. The other life was led by the impulses of the flesh. He urged Christians to be submissive to the Holy Spirit and produce the Spirit of the Spirit.

II. In our text Paul gives further instructions to those led by the Spirit of God. There are seven statements I would like to emphasize from this text.

I. **Restore The Erring** - Paul emphasizes Christians are to restore the erring.

A. He tenderly addresses the Galatians saying. (Gal. 6:1).

1. Paul here commands Christians to restore the brother who has been overtaken by sin.

2. The word "restore" is a surgical term. It means "to restore to its former good condition." As a dislocated shoulder is restored to its proper position by a physician, Christians are to restore a fallen brother to his proper position in the body of Christ.

3. Notice Paul said "brethren". This is the responsibility placed on every member of the Lord's body. This is something that Christian often neglect to do. When a brother falls into sin, we have a tendency to say, "**That is none of my business.**" Paul says here that it is our business! He teaches we are our brother's keeper. We are to do all we can to restore him to the fold of God.

B. We are to restore our brother in a "spirit of gentleness". We are to go to him with a "holier than thou" spirit nor with a harsh and unforgiving spirit. If we do not manifest a spirit of love and gentleness we will drive him even farther from the Lord. We will make it impossible to renew him again to repentance.

1. **Paul also says we should look to ourselves lest we also be tempted.** We, too, might stumble and need to be restored.

2. Someone has written these important lines.

“Deal kindly with the erring, Oh, do not thou forget, However darkly stained by sin, He is thy brother yet	Forget not thou has often sinned, And sinful yet must be. Deal kindly with the erring As God has dealt with thee.”
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II. Bear One Another’s Burdens - Paul emphasized we are to bear one another’s burdens. (Gal. 6:2).

A. Life is full of burdens and troubles. Sometimes these burdens become too much. Sometimes they become overwhelming.

1. The scriptures teach we are to seek God’s help. (Psa. 55:22).
2. They also teach we are to help each other.

B. We are to help our fellow-Christian live the Christian life. We can help our fellow-Christian by living the right kind of life, by encouraging one another and by giving spiritual guidance to those who need and seek help.

C. By helping our brother Paul affirms that we “**fulfill the law of Christ.**”

1. Paul refers to the teachings of Christ in general and perhaps specifically to such scriptures as these. (Matt. 5:7; 1 Jn. 13:34, 35).
2. It has been said, “When you help a brother up a steep hill, your are nearer the top yourself.”
3. Someone else has written,

If when climbing up life’s ladder You can reach a hand below Just to help the other fellow Up another rung or so;	It may be that in the future, When you’re growing weary, too, You’ll be glad to find there’s someone Who will lend a hand to you!”
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III. A Danger Of Deceiving Ourselves - Paul emphasized there is a danger of deceiving ourselves. (Gal. 6:3).

A. There is a danger of the spiritual becoming self-righteous. There is a danger of overestimating our worth. There is a danger of overestimating our strength. There is a danger of thinking we cannot fall.

B. Paul spoke similar words in **1 Corinthians 10:12.**

1. These words of Paul do not mean the Christian cannot have any confidence of his salvation. (Rom. 8:37; 1 Jn. 5:4).
2. The word “thinketh” means “persuaded.” It has the idea of becoming overconfident.

C. If we become confident we cannot fall, we are likely to fall. (Matt. 26:31-35; 26:69-75).

IV. Each Man Must Bear His Own Burden - Paul teaches each man must bear his own burden. (Gal. 6:5).

A. Some have thought that verse 5 contradicts verse 2. There he states we are to bear one another’s burdens.

Here he teaches each man must bear his own burden. But there is no contradiction.

B. Even though we are to help one another live the Christian life, each of us will be judged individually by God for the things we have done. (Rom. 14:12; Eccles. 12:14).

V. **Communicate With Our Teachers** - Paul teaches we are to “communicate” with our teachers.

A. In verse 6 Paul says, “But let him that is taught in the word “communicate” unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

1. The word “communicate” is from a Greek word which means “to share.”
2. Those who are taught the word are to share all good things with their teachers.

B The ones who are taught should also share with their teachers **in spiritual things**. There should be a bond of love and fellowship between the teacher and the one taught. There should be a constant sharing of these things.

C. This verse teaches that Christians have the **responsibility of supporting those that teach them**.

1. This is a truth taught throughout the New Testament. (1 Cor. 9:14; 1 Tim. 5:17, 18).
2. These passages set forth the fact that those who devote their lives to the preaching of the gospel are to be supported.
3. Paul points out in this passage, we just considered from 1 Timothy, that the elders who “rule well” are worthy of double honor. They should have the love and respect of the flock and they should also be supported when they devote their full time to the duties of an elder.
4. **Today we need more full time elders in the church.** This would give these spiritual shepherds more time to do the work God has appointed them. It is my personal opinion that the church will reach its full potential until it supports at least some of its shepherds so they will have more time to tend and lead the flock of God.

VI. **God Is Not Mocked** - Paul emphasizes that “God is not mocked.” (Gal. 6:7, 8).

A. The word “mocked” means “to deceive” and then “to ridicule” because of the deception.

1. Paul is saying we can mock man, but we cannot mock or turn our noses up at God. God is not mocked. Man will reap what he has sown.
2. In Acts 5 we read of a man and his wife who tried to deceive God. (Acts 5:1-11).

B. **Men today often try to mock God.**

1. Some try to mock God by **not giving as they have been prospered**. They seem to think that God does not know their prosperity and will not punish their covetousness. God is not deceived. He knows how much we earn. He knows our ability to give. If we do not return to Him a generous amount of our income, God will not richly bless us in this life and will also condemn us for our failure to give. The covetous, stingy Christian will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. Others try to mock God by **merely having an outward religion**.

a. They look real good on the outside.

b. There is just one problem. God looks, however, on the heart. (1 Sam.16:7).

3. Others try to **mock God by breaking His laws**.

a. They do many sinful and perverse things with the misconception they are deceiving God and that God does not see and hear all that they do, but again God is not mocked.

b. They will not escape the wrath of God. (Gal. 6:7; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

You Can't Fool God

You can fool the helpless public You can be a subtle fraud You can hide little mean nesses But you can't fool God.	You can criticize the Bible, You can be a selfish clod, You can lie, swear, drink and gamble, But you can't fool God.
You can advertise your virtues, You can self-achievement laud, You can load yourself with riches, But you can't fool God.	You can magnify your talent, You can hear the world applaud, You can boast yourself somebody, But you can't fool God.

VII. **Do Good** - Paul emphasizes we are to do good. (Gal. 6:9, 10).

A. Paul stresses we are not to grow weary in doing good. It is not hard to do good. Even the worse of men will occasionally do a good deed. It is hard to do good day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year. It is hard to do good for a life time. It is especially hard if we have opposition or others do not appreciate the good things we do. Paul assures us that we will reap God's blessings if we faint not.

B. The exhortation here is to do good to all. We are to do good to all men, but especially th those "of the household of the faith."

C. We should never fail to help a Christian brother or sister in need.

1. Failure to do so evidences that one is not led by the Spirit

2. Failure to do so evidences that one does not have the love of God abiding in his heart. (1 Jn. 3:17,18).

Conclusion.

I. May the words of this text always be on our hearts. May be always be led by the Spirit of God. May we always conduct ourselves as children of God.

II. If you are not a child of God, why not submit your life to Him and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit that you may have eternal life with Him. Will you come as we stand and sing?