

The Epistle to the Galatians¹

How to Restore the Fallen One, Fulfill the Law of Christ and Sow (Gal.6:1-10)

I How to Restore the Fallen One

- A. Walking by the Spirit (**Gal.5:25**) is exhibited in these matters of restoring, fulfilling and sowing. In each of these cases, the key is to turn to our spirit and walk by the Spirit.
- B. To restore one who has fallen, we must have a spirit of meekness, which is just our regenerated spirit, indwelt and mingled with the Holy Spirit. Such a spirit of meekness comes out of our living and walking by the Spirit-it is the issue or fruit of the Spirit, i.e., it is the result of being spiritual (**Gal.5:25, 6:1b**). The meekness we need is in our spirit (**Gal.6:1b**) and outside of such a spirit, we are liable to be tempted (**Gal.6:1c**) just as the one taken in some offense (**Gal.6:1c**).

II How to Fulfill the Law of Christ

- A. Bearing one another's burden is another demonstration of not living by our self. (**Gal.6:2**) It is an expression of living by the higher and better law of Christ operating through love. (John 13:34, Rom.8:2). Love is the issue and expression of the divine life (**1John 4:7-8, 16, 2:3-5, 1Cor.13**). The law of love, which is the law of Christ, is the law of life. This law of life is the law of the Spirit and this Spirit produces the fruit of love. (**Gal.5:22**)
- B. If you are not in this love, which is in the Spirit, you will be in yourself. In that realm, you will not care to bear anyone else's burdens. You will be full of yourself, thinking you are something when you are not-this is self-deception. (**Gal.6:3**) This is also vain-glory (**Gal.5:26**). When we consider ourselves as nothing, which can only be achieved in the Spirit, we will spontaneously bear the burden of others.
- C. Proving our own work is to verify that we meet the qualifications for a particular status. (**Gal.6:4**) As we bear another's burden we verify that we are fulfilling the law of Christ, which is love in the Spirit. Our boast is not in the outward doing for the purpose of comparing ourselves to another. (**Gal.6:5**) We do not place a high estimate on what we do. We simply do it because we are walking in and by the Spirit. Our boast is in doing only what results from such an inward reality. A practical example of bearing another's burden is sharing with those who serve the Lord. (**Gal.6:6**)

III How to Sow

- A. The phrase, "Do not be led astray" is in reference to the Judaizers who were distracting the Galatians from the Spirit and encouraging a life according to the law in their flesh. (**Gal.6:7**) But Paul warns the Galatians that God can not be fooled. He knows the difference between what is sown in our flesh and what is sown to the Spirit.
- B. The word sowing, here in its most immediate context, may be refer back to the matter of supplying the need of those who serve the Lord. While, the context suggests this,

¹ Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

we must remember that verse 6 is a practical example of a living in and by the Spirit. Therefore, it is more appropriate to generalize sowing to any activity, both in thought and action, that will produce a result, just as planting a seed, produces a crop.

- C. To sow unto the flesh is to sow with a view to the flesh, or for the flesh, with the purpose of the flesh in view, fulfilling what the flesh covets and this issues in corruption
- D. To sow unto the Spirit is to sow for the Spirit, with the aim of the Spirit, accomplishing what the Spirit desires, which issues in eternal life, which is of the Spirit Himself. **(Gal.6:8)**
- E. Sowing covers the totality of our Christian life. It is what we do, say and think, day in and day out.
 - 1. Everything we do is some kind of sowing, either to the flesh or to the Spirit. Wherever we may be and whatever we may doing, we are sowing seeds.
 - 2. We sow at work, at school, at home with our spouse, family, friends and neighbors. The Christian life is a life of sowing and the place where we are sowing is the farm.
- F. In our experience, the flesh should be crucified and we should not continue to walk according to flesh. **(Gal.5:24)** But we continually sow unto the flesh while we express our attitudes and our opinions
- G. If we, instead do, say and think to sow unto the Spirit, many problems in our personal and corporate Christian life can be diminished.
- H. Seeds are small but they can multiply into a great harvest. We often consider that the things we are sowing are insignificant, but we must be aware that they may will consequences. A little criticism, a little gossiping, a little opinion, a little whining, a little complaining, a little anger, a little envy-these and many other little seeds are for sowing unto the flesh. In a marriage, tiny words, attitudes and feelings, expressed year after year often produce divorce or separation, which corruption in the flesh. In the church life, tiny seeds can blossom into corruption, leading discord, factionalism and division. Even in our fellowship, we should be on alert to sow unto the Spirit. We should love others in the Spirit, not in the flesh. Walking in the Spirit **(Gal.5:25)** is the same as sowing unto the Spirit. **(Gal.6:8)**
- I. Sowing unto the Spirit is a long-term exercise.
 - 1. Sowing unto the flesh usually produces a quicker result (like mushroom growth), but sowing unto the Spirit requires slower growth. Often the higher the life, the slower the growth. Certainly life in the Spirit is higher than life in the flesh. So it is easy to be discouraged. This is why Paul says not to lose heart in doing good, i.e., in sowing unto the Spirit. **(Gal.6:9)**
 - 2. So continue to sow, by doing good, by sowing unto the Spirit even as we minister to the physical needs of the needy **(Gal.6:10)**