

# THE APOSTLES PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE CHURCHES of GALATIANS

## CHAPTER 5:16-18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY” – PART 1**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Liberty, Freedom, Spiritual Independence**

**INTRODUCTION**

*to the text*

*Galatians 5:16-18*

### **Galatians 4:22-26**

**For it is written** that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar-- 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children-- 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

## Teaching by Contrasting Points

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point,  
he is guilty of all.

## ***Our Two Part Text is This:***

Galatians 5:16-25

**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law....** 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

PART-1

COMMAND VS. CONFLICT  
(16-18)

PART-2

CONTRAST VS. CONQUEST  
(19-25)

In Chapters 5&6, the apostle Paul now directs his challenge to the Galatians from knowing the simple gospel of Jesus Christ – **to doing that simple gospel.**

The Law Could Not, Cannot Produce Righteousness in a Human Being.

It could only show the holy standard of God and Man's gross inability to keep God's perfect Law.

But God is Holy and He has Called His Children to Holy Living –  
yes!

But it is God who has established, maintained, and sustains that  
Holiness

## ***His Active Holiness – In Our Day-to-Day Lives***

Jesus Christ Died  
For Our Justification  
(*give meaning*)

The Holy Spirit was Given  
For Our Sanctification  
(*give meaning*)

### PART-1 COMMAND & CONFLICT (16-18)

## THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

### **1.) *The Christian's Marching Orders***

**vv. 16**

I say then: Walk in the Spirit,  
and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

## **“THE COMMAND”**

for the faint and weak, listen carefully. God does not call into His family those who are “Equipped”. No. He equips all those whom He calls.

## **We've got a Problem**

We are a redeemed people  
living in an unredeemed body

# THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

## *The Christians' marching orders*

**a.) The command to "hear" the Order**

**v.16**

I say then...

Seven Times

In the book of Revelation Jesus says...

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Matthew 5:21a-22

"You have heard that it was said to those of old...

22 "But I say to you...

Matthew 13:9-14

9 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

## **Does The Bible Make Sense to You?**

Do you come in and out every Sunday and have yet to see a change in your own life and living?

For most here, they can't wait for Sunday or Wednesday - they're so eager to hear what He is saying...

John 10:24-29

Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Lets' Fight About the Eternal Security of the Believer

Let's ask Ourselves the Answer - Do I Hear His Voice in My Life?

## **THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY**

### ***The Christian's marching orders***

**b.) The command to "do" the Order**

**v.16**

**Walk in the Spirit,**



Walk grk 4043 peripateo (per-ee-pat-eh'-o);

To walk at large. To be occupied and consumed with the walk

It's a continual walking, It's a continual talking, existing, interacting

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Romans 6:9-12

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### ***The command to “do” the Order***

## The Saved Life is a DO life

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does** the will of My Father in heaven.

## **THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY** ***The Christians marching orders***

**c.) *The command to “experience” the Order***

**v.16**

and **you shall not** fulfill the lust of the flesh.



flesh. Grk 4561 sarx (sarx); I can mean flesh and meat – but most often it’s the human nature (with its frailties [physically or morally] and passions), or (specifically) a human being (as such):

**Legalism is like a Terrorist** - It blows itself up in the Attempt  
A terrorist is a stupid pawn used by others focusing on what it cannot achieve

If I say to you “You shall not have In-Out Burger”  
What will you be thinking the rest of the day?  
“In-Out Burger”

The Rules of Holiness Groups

Thou Shalt Not

and you **shall not** fulfill the lust of the flesh.



**shall Not** grk 3364 ou me (oo may);

a double negative strengthening the denial; No - not at all: - No  
Longer-any more,

Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

# You Can Have This Instead

Come With Me to the Cheesecake Factory

And look at the selection of cheesecakes and walk among the menu

## The Law Says

## Thou Shalt Not – you’re on your own!

The Gospel Says  
Thou Shalt Not – you're in me now!

**When Raising up a Child  
Be careful how you child-  
proof a house**

No Jack, No Jack, No Jack, No Jack  
(he'll begin to think his name is "NoJack")

**NOT THAT JACK – TAKE THIS**

My view of Christianity is...

*There is so many "Thou Gets to Do" that I rarely focus  
on the Thou Shalt Not's*

Because the "Thou Gets to Do's" are so much more  
fun, rewarding, meaningful, helpful, and Loving for  
everyone around me – including me!

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

1 John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

PART-1  
COMMAND & CONFLICT  
(16-18)

**“THE CONTRAST”**

Because the law (legalism) has no power to justify a man from sin, it also has no power to sanctify a man toward righteousness.

**THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY**  
*The Christian's marching orders*

**2.) *The Christian's Proof of Purchase* vv. 17-18**

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.  
18 But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.

Christian, Make no mistake about it. The surrendered, devoted, follower of Jesus Christ must be a Contender

A Contender in this Fashion,  
That We Fight from the Position of Victory

That what Jesus has given to us freely (redemption and all its benefits), we used to advance our walks with God in a dead and dying world of sinfulness

The Living Bible

Galatians 5:17-18

For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures. 18 When you are guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to obey Jewish laws.

## THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

### *The Christian's proof of purchase*

#### a.) *The conflict "between" flesh and spirit*

v.17

For the flesh **lusts (desires)** against the Spirit,  
and the Spirit **lusts (desires)** against the flesh;

The Conflict is a Real, Literal, Spiritual War  
*(more real than any physical war or battle could ever be)*



**lusts** 1937 epithumeo (ep-ee-thoo-meh'-o);

to set the heart upon something good or evil. To covet or to lust for.

A Holy Struggle –  
At Conviction towards Conversion

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A Holy Struggle –  
Through Direction towards Salvation

When a man is truly converted to Jesus Christ  
There is a change in direction that begins to take place. That change may be in degrees some great some lesser, but always change - there will be, there must be change in that man.

1 John 2:16-17

For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

## ***An Example of Spiritual Conflict***

2 Kings 5:1-15

The king of Syria had high admiration for Naaman, the commander-in-chief of his army, for he had led his troops to many glorious victories. So he was a great hero, but he was a leper. 2 Bands of Syrians had invaded the land of Israel, and among their captives was a young girl who had been given to Naaman's wife as a maid servant. 3 One day the girl said to her mistress, "I wish my master would go to see the prophet in Samaria. He would heal him of his leprosy!" 4 Naaman told the king what the girl had said. 5 "Go and visit the prophet," the king told him. "I will send a letter of introduction for you to carry to the king of Israel." So Naaman started out, taking gifts of \$20,000 in silver, \$60,000 in gold, and ten suits of clothing. 6 The letter to the king of Israel said: "The man bringing this letter is my servant Naaman; I want you to heal him of his leprosy." 7 When the king of Israel read it, he tore his clothes and said, "This man sends me a leper to heal! Am I God, that I can kill and give life? He is only trying to get an excuse to invade us again." 8 But when Elisha the prophet heard about the king of Israel's plight, he sent this message to him: "Why are you so upset? Send Naaman to me, and he will learn that there is a true prophet of God here in Israel." 9 So Naaman arrived with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's home. 10 Elisha sent a messenger out to tell him to go and wash in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed of every trace of his leprosy! 11 But Naaman was angry and stalked away. "Look," he said, "I thought at least he would come out and talk to me! I expected him to wave his hand over the leprosy and call upon the name of the Lord his God and heal me! 12 Aren't the Abana River and Pharpar River of Damascus better than all the rivers of Israel put together? If it's rivers I need, I'll wash at home and get rid of my leprosy." So he went away in a rage. 13 But his officers tried to reason with him and said, "If the prophet had told you to do some great thing, wouldn't you have done it? So you should certainly obey him when he says simply to go and wash and be cured!" 14 So Naaman went down to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times, as the prophet had told him to. And his flesh became as healthy as a little child's, and he was healed! 15 Then he and his entire party went back to find the prophet; they stood humbly before him and Naaman said, "I know at last that there is no God in all the world except in Israel; now please accept my gifts."

## ***An Example of Spiritual Conflict***

NAAMAN'S LOGICAL FLESH FOUGHT AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL COMMAND  
AND THE TWO MADE FOR A CONFLICT

James 3:11-13

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

Romans 6:17-18

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

White Dog / Black Dog

## THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

### *The Christian's proof of purchase*

**b.) The conflict "continues" to this moment**

**v.17**

and these are **contrary** to one another,  
so that you do not do the things that you wish.



Contrary grk 480 antikeimai (an-tik'-i-mahee);

To be pitted against another. Adversaries of the greatest kind to the point of hatred and repulsion

## We Are Fighting Now (in real time) - a Battle

Ephesians 6:12-18

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

Romans 7:14-25

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin – **(the battle rages on)**.

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has made me free** from the law of sin and death.

## THE KEY TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

### *The Christian's proof of purchase*

**c.) The conflict "leads" us to the victory**

**v.18**

But if you are **led by the Spirit**,  
you are not under the law.

# ATTENTION

This is The Key – The Holy Spirit Himself

- The More You Understand the Things of the Spirit
- The More You Open Up to the Things of the Spirit

- The More You Seek the Mind of the Spirit
- The More You Desire the Will of the Spirit
- The More You Embrace the Life and Person of the Holy Spirit

the Greater the Victory

## **A Radical Truth is Here**

The Holy Spirit is Already Leading Us

*We are to be willing to follow*

Psalm 37:3-7

Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4  
 Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5  
 Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. 6 He  
 shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. 7  
 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret

It's the sight of a castle - that tells you there's a King  
 It's the sight of soldier - that tells you there's a War  
 It's the sight of struggle - that tells you there's Life

Romans 8:13-14

For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the  
 deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these  
 are sons of God.

## **Application**

We, through the Holy Spirit,  
 have been given the power to starve the Carnal Appetites

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh,  
to fulfill its lusts.

## Be On the "Avoidance" of Potential Sin

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

### **3.) *What it comes down to is, what do you want?***

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

**1.) *Do you want to have your sins forgiven right now?***

**2.) *Can you ask God to speak to you right now?***

**3.) *Will you decide on Jesus Christ right now?***

## Back in the Eighties - My Flight Instructor Ralph And the every present chuck hole

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Colossians 2:6

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,