

Galatians Unearthed Part 18: 5:13-26; Fulfill the Law; Walking in the Spirit (5/26/ 2018)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_f8bD57eWk

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

I want to start this week by circling back to the last two verses we ended off with last week. Galatians 5:13—**For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.** We looked at this verse and noticed how Paul throws this powerful anchor statement out because he knows the evil inclinations of the flesh and how his words could be misinterpreted. He knows how we will abuse liberty.

So given that, I want to take you to a monster anchor statement. In the Galatians 5:13 verse, it is stated in a way that you could read between the lines. With this next verse, the author elucidates on this. Last week I took you to all these Scriptures where Paul says the same thing here and there, and we put it all together, so it made sense. Today I want to take you to a passage that lays it out all explicitly.

So with that said, we are going to Hebrews 10:26—²⁶ **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins (emphasis added).** That's a frightening thing because of what Paul talks about in Galatians. He says we have embraced this liberty, we're embracing grace, and we're embracing Yeshua as the Messiah. Right? So we have that truth. Then we come to this verse and see—**if we sin willfully.** Remember, we are not to use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh. That is the same thing being conveyed here. How scary is it to see—**if we sin willfully**—it is over. Don't expect Yeshua's great sacrifice to cover you.

We have to continue in the verse because there's a lot said here—²⁷ **but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.** ²⁸ **Anyone who has rejected Moses' Law dies (Hebrews 10:27-28).** I want to stop and be clear about this regarding Moses Law. Christianity has this really bizarre perspective today that Moses' Law is actually made up by Moses. Actually, it is called the Law of God. Do you know how many times it's called the Law of God? Go to Scripture and do a word search. It is called the Law of God over and over again. In fact, I'll take it a step further. Go to the book of Nehemiah where we find it called the book of God. It's the book of the LORD. It is the LORD's book and the LORD's Law.

It is important to recognize this because it changed my perspective regarding how I look at the Law of Moses. I don't see it as a product of man anymore. I see it is a product of God.

Starting again in Hebrews 10:28—²⁸ **Anyone who has rejected Moses' Law dies without mercy [there is no mercy if you reject the Law of God] on the testimony of two or three witnesses.** All you need to do is

go to the Torah and read Deuteronomy 17 and 19. That is exactly what you will find stated in the Torah—you will **die without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses**.

Continuing in Hebrews 10:29— **²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace (emphasis added)?** I want you to understand what the writer just said when he said— **insulted the Spirit of grace**—because it is very simple. The Law entered because of transgression. From the giving of Torah to the time of Yeshua, we have this gap period. It was one thing to sin during this time before the coming of Yeshua, and as a result, you deserved to die if you rejected Moses' Law. It is a whole other thing to sin after Yeshua had come on the scene. It's completely different. With the coming of Yeshua, you are worthy of a much greater death than all the men who sinned prior to the coming of Yeshua.

Now think about that. You are worthy of a greater death. That changes the perspective because it is more incumbent on us to be obedient than ever before because the Grace of God that brings salvation has appeared before all men. An acknowledgment of that sacrifice will bring you into obedience. It will bring you back to the Law. It will bring you back to the Torah.

This is the reality, but it's amazing to me how the devil has flipped this thing upside down. Now today, because of the grace, we reject the Law, and people who do this don't realize they're being led to their death. That is a reality. Do not think you are going to—**insulted the Spirit of grace**—and grace is going to cover you. It is not going to happen. This warning is not just for the wayward Church; this is for every one of us here today. The thought of that puts me on my knees, and I'll be the first in line trembling.

This is real! We need to take this stuff to heart. So when Paul talks about you not use liberty as a cloak for wickedness, as an opportunity for the flesh, this is exactly what he's talking about. We get the weight of the statement in Hebrews, which most people believe Paul wrote. So do I.

Moving on the Galatians 5:14—**¹⁴ For all the Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** So just to reiterate, Paul is instructing the Galatians regarding what they are called to do. He is not quoting the Torah for the sake of sounding good. He's telling them, "Galatians, Gentiles, this is what you're called to do. Every single one of us, to the Jew first and to the Gentile, we are called to fulfill Torah." This is a game changer. It makes me look differently at the Torah. Amen? This is a total game changer.

So again, what is the Torah? It's a book of love. It promotes love. It demands it, and, therefore, we are commanded to fulfill it." We are not to fall into the lies, the cunning deceptions, where Satan tries to paint the Law as barbaric, antiquated, our nemesis, and our enemy. We can't buy into those things. We've got to push through.

Now Paul goes on to say this—**¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another (Galatians 5:15)**! That is an interesting statement. Notice what Paul does here. In verse 14, Paul tells us what we're called to do—**You shall love your neighbor as yourself**. We are to show love to our neighbor. That is the ultimate fulfillment of the Law, but then he contrasts it by the ultimate work of the flesh, which is the opposite. If you—**bite and devour one another**—that's being filled with hatred.

This is in Paul's D.N.A. You'll see this when you start to read his other epistles. You will notice how Paul states there are always two roads set before him. The road of life and the road of death. We always have two choices. We can see that idea going all the way back to the Garden of Eden. There was the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One brings life; one brings death.

Look at what it says in Deuteronomy 30:19—I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life*. This is what Paul is putting before the Galatians. He is telling them they need to choose between these two, and what does he say? He says this—¹⁶ *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16)*.

What does the statement—*walk in the Spirit* mean? This statement is huge. It is a game changer. If you were to ask me over 20 years ago over what I thought walking in the Spirit was, I would have given you a very different definition than what we're going to see today. I grew up in an Assemblies of God Church. I loved my church. It is kind of a branch of evangelical Christianity that is very in tune, and has a heavy emphasis, on the gifts of the Spirit. Particularly the gift of tongues. It was nothing for me to go to church and witness the whole community erupt in tongues. I didn't bat an eyelash at that. It was nothing when people got together for prayer for them to be praying in tongues. That's just how it was.

The way they see this is the gift of tongues is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. What they believe is if you don't have the gift of tongues, you don't have the Holy Spirit because tongues is the proof of our inheritance. So if you don't have the Holy Spirit, there won't be a manifestation of tongues.

If you were to ask me twenty years ago, and this goes the same with prophecy, healings, and miracles, how do you define walking in the Spirit, I would have told you it's a manifestation of the power of God. The power of God is on me and things are happening.

Today, I will tell you something very different. That is not what it is. One thing you need to understand, there is a distinction between walking in the Spirit and a manifestation of the Spirit. Manifestations of the Spirit, when authentic, are powerful moves of the Most High God. They're awesome to behold. I have experienced healing, so when I talk about manifestations, I speak from experience. These things are real, when authentic, but that is not walking in the Spirit.

I want you to think about something. King Saul was anointed of the Most High God. He was anointed with the Ruach HaKodesh. There was a manifestation of power. When he got to the prophets, and he started prophesying, it wasn't him doing it by his own willpower. It was an authentic move of power. He had nothing to do with it. That is the significant difference about manifestations. God's not asking you, "Is it OK if I go ahead and anoint you with the Spirit? I have some things I'd like to convey to my people. Is that permissible?" God doesn't ask permission.

When the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples as recorded in Acts 2, He didn't ask anybody's permission. It just happened, and the Spirit spoke. This wasn't a product of man at all. It's just a real move and power of the Holy Spirit.

So this happened to Saul. He began to prophesy, but it wasn't him doing it. The Spirit was just flowing through him. However, here's what's interesting. When you study his life, what you will find is he didn't walk in the Spirit. And not walking in the Spirit cost him the mercy of God. All you need to do is read

the book of Chronicles where you will find it says the mercy of God was taken from him. He lost the grace because he didn't walk in the Spirit.

What about Balaam? Balaam gave one of my favorite messianic prophecies in all of Scripture—I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult (Numbers 24:17). The meaning of this is One is coming, this Messiah, and is going to rise up and bring deliverance to Israel.

So here we have this great prophecy spoke by Balaam. How did Balaam's life end? He was eventually killed by Israel. That was God's will. Do you know why? Because he taught the Moabite women to seduce the Israelites and ended up causing a great slaughter in Israel. So Balak hired Balaam to curse Israel, and instead of a curse, he prophesied. That's a manifestation of the Spirit, but Balaam did not walk in the Spirit.

I'm going to tell you right now there's a massive distinction between walking in the Spirit and a manifestation of the Spirit. It is all spiritual and holy, but to walk in the Spirit is to commit your life to God. It is to bear the responsibility by picking up your cross and follow Him. It's to keep the commandments of God. That's what walking in the Spirit is.

Just so you know, the Apostle Paul defines the term walking in the Spirit right in this passage. You will notice in the verse how Paul said—all the Law is fulfilled in one word (Galatians 5:14). How do we do this? You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Galatians 5:14). But if you don't do the Torah, and you—bite and devour one another—you will be—consumed by one another (Galatians 5:15). So in order to avoid this, what does Paul instruct? He tells us to—Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), which takes us right back to his statement—all the Law is fulfilled (Galatians 5:14). In other words, what he's literally telling you is to fulfill the Torah is to walk in the Spirit.

That is a game changer! This concept makes me look at the Torah completely different. This makes me understand walking in the Spirit is walking in obedience to the LORD.

I look at how ironic some of this is and how Paul defines himself in his own terms, yet when we go to modern-day Christianity, oftentimes we find their interpretation of what it means to be guided by the Spirit is to reject the Law. This is how they see it.

I have had these conversations with people who are either wonderful, caring, or sometimes they're condescending. I guess it depends on the day and the person. But what I have found during these conversations is they feel bad for you. They think you're uneducated and don't understand the New Covenant. They think you don't understand we're supposed to be guided and lead by the Spirit. They believe this is the new, profound way. However, when they say that, they are rejecting the Law as though these two things are unrelated to the Torah. They believe Torah has no relationship to the Spirit of God. What did Paul say in Romans 7:14? He said—For we know that the Law is Spiritual. The Torah is Spiritual. If I am going to walk in the Torah, it means I'm going to be Spiritual. It means I'm embracing Spirit.

Given the importance of this topic and what the devil has done to it, I do think it's important we spend a little bit of time on it today. We could certainly do another series on this topic, but I don't think that's necessary. We are, however, going to spend some time on this, and I'm going to take you to some

various passages to build upon what Paul just defined as walking in the Spirit and what that actually means.

The first one I want to take you to is in the book of Nehemiah 9 where we find the Levites have risen up, and they start declaring the praises of God. They start recalling how God provided for Israel in the wilderness. As they do this, in a very prophetic way, they speak to us today. This is very powerful!

Nehemiah 9:20—**You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them.** To say good Spirit means it's the Holy Spirit. God gave His Spirit to the Israelites while they were in the wilderness as a means to instruct them.

So how did that happen? Go back and read the story of Mount Sinai. Paul said in Romans 7:14—the Law is spiritual. What did they get at Mount Sinai? They received that which was Spiritual. In addition to that, the LORD anointed Moses and also seventy elders of Israel with the Ruach HaKodesh. They were anointed. Then there were Eldad and Medad who were prophesying, and Joshua came to Moses and told Moses to tell them to stop (Numbers 11:26). These men were prophesying because they were anointed with the power of God. The Holy Spirit had come upon them.

So what did Moses and the elders do with Israel? They taught the people the Law, and in Nehemiah 9:20, we're told it was the Spirit of God instructing them. That is a powerful perspective!

Continuing in Nehemiah 9:20—**and did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.** Jumping ahead to Nehemiah 9:26—**Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against You, and cast Your Law behind their backs (emphasis added).** Who was instructing them? The Spirit of God. When they rejected that Spirit, how is it defined in verse twenty-six? It is defined as rejecting the Torah. This is scary!

Continuing in Nehemiah 9:26—**and killed Your prophets, who testified against them to turn them to Yourself; and they worked great provocations.** There are great provocations happening in the Church today! Nehemiah 9:27-28—²⁷**Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, who oppressed them; and in the time of their trouble, when they cried to You, You heard from heaven; and according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them from the hand of their enemies.** ²⁸**But after they had rest, they again did evil before You.**

Isn't that the natural way we behave? When the blessings are coming in, what happens? We forget God.

Continuing in Nehemiah 9:28—**Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies so they had dominion over them; yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; and many times You delivered them according to Your mercies.**

I am going to tell you something off point a little bit. There is a message that plays over and over in Scripture, and I can't emphasize this enough. No matter where you have gone, if you turn back, if you call upon the name of Yeshua, you will be saved. There's going to be forgiveness.

Nehemiah 9:29—**And testified against them, that You might bring them back to Your Law (emphasis added).** So when the prophets came out and started testifying, what was the point? They were telling

the people to come back to God's Law. They needed to come back to the Torah. They were being told to, "Come to your senses and return to My Torah." **Yet they acted proudly, And did not heed Your commandments, but sinned against Your judgments, 'Which if a man does, he shall live by them.'** In other words, you will reap what you sow. **And they shrugged their shoulders, Stiffened their necks, and would not hear.**

I have to tell you something. We are living in a generation where the Church is full of stiff necked people. It is amazing to me. I have heard with my own ears how they scoff at Israel for rebelling against God in the wilderness. The Church today claims they would have never done what Israel did, yet they are doing what Israel did. They are doing exactly what Israel has done. They're rejecting God's Word, Torah. They refuse to hear it.

Going on to Nehemiah 29:30—**Yet for many years You had patience with them, and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets (emphasis added).** So these prophets who were going out to turn them back to the Law, to the Torah, now we're told it was the Holy Spirit— **testified against them by Your Spirit.** It was the Ruach bringing them back to the Torah. The Ruach was bringing them back to that which is Spiritual (Romans 7:14—your Law is spiritual).

Continuing in Nehemiah 29:30—**and testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they would not listen; Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.** So the simple point I'm making here is notice what the Spirit of God does. This is consistent throughout the entirety of the Word from Genesis to Revelation, it will take you back to the Torah. So if there are people going out and saying, "No, we are listening to the Spirit; therefore, we don't listen to the Law anymore," I question what Spirit are they are listening to. It's the spirit of Antichrist. That is the spirit that would take me away from the Word of God. Very scary!

Even scarier is when I peer out and look at the fastest growing church today in Western civilization, I find it to be the church of the Antichrist. That's how terrifying things are right now. That is the fastest growing church. It is the church of the Antichrist. It is like cancer that is literally eating a body. It is consuming and spreading. If you walk in the Spirit, you will walk with God in His Law.

Psalms 119:1—**Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the Law of the LORD (emphasis added)!** This is walking. Don't think Paul is accidentally utilizing this statement. He is doing so for a reason. Don't think he is accidentally saying—**walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).** Paul knows what it means here. We are to—**walk in the Law of the LORD.** It is our way. That is how we are to go.

Psalms 119:35—**Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it (emphasis added).** Think about that Psalm. The cry isn't in rejecting the Law; the cry is for it. The cry is for me to walk in it. How many people are praying to the LORD, "Make me walk in the Commandments"? How many people are praying, "No matter what it cost; no matter how much You have to break me; create in me a clean heart oh God"? "Make me do it at all cost." Why? Because it's my delight. It's what I desire in my heart. Yes the flesh is weak, and the flesh is powerful and very influential, but make me walk in Your commandments. This has to be your desire.

Moving ahead to Psalm 119:59—**I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies (emphasis added).** He is talking about the Aseret HaDevarim, the Ten Commandments. He is talking about turning his feet and walking in them. Think about how you're behaving. Think about what you're

doing and turn to His commandments. By doing this, you are turning back. This is repentance.

Psalms 85:13—**Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway (emphasis added)**. This is one of those verses that was revolutionary for me. This happens to me from time to time when I will come across a passage and will step back for twenty minutes to a half hour and just ponder it. When I read this verse, it totally transformed how I looked at the Torah and the commandments. I was thinking, “Now I see. All these commandments that are laid out are His footsteps, and when He says, ‘Come and follow me,’ what does that mean? It means I must walk in His ways. I must walk in His commandments.” It does not make me look at the Torah as my nemesis or a vial thing that has to be rejected like cancer. The Torah is the footsteps of my King. I am following Him. Yet, the devil is going to come and try to take you off of those paths by telling you, “No you don't need to walk in His footsteps. You need to be liberated from the Torah.”

Being liberated from the Torah. This is what's being sold. Think about the Word of God—You shall be holy; for I *am* holy. (Leviticus 11:44). That's why we do this. This is His command upon us. We are called to be holy. We are to be separate and set apart. We are to be nothing like the world because He is holy. That is enough.

Remember what Yeshua said— **Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48)**. He said we are to be perfect. In 1 John 3:3, it says— **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure**. So I won't run away from His Word; I am going to run to it. I am going to want to be sanctified. I'm going to want to be purified.

I want to take you to Romans 8. Remember Romans 8 comes after chapter 7. What was said in chapter 7? The Law was good, holy and just. The Law is spiritual. Paul makes all these statements. Right? Now look at what he goes on to say in Romans 8:1—**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~~ (strikethrough added)**. You'll find that the strikethrough portion of the verse isn't in most of the translations out there. This was an afterthought added to a later edition, but I don't want you to panic or anything because we're going to deal with this statement in a bit.

Moving on to Romans 8:2—**For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the Law of sin and death**. Obviously, if you're a believer, this is 101 in the system of belief. The problem was sin. Sin had total power over us; therefore, we needed redemption. We needed a Savior. OK? What does it say in Ecclesiastes? There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and does not sin. That is the problem. All of us are plagued with this carcass of flesh and sin, so we need a Savior. We need someone to deliver us, and that was Yeshua. To set us free from sin, He paid the price.

Continuing in Romans 8:3—**For what the Law could not do in that it was **weak through the flesh** (emphasis added)**. In other words, the Law through this carcass of flesh could not produce salvation. And where's the weak link? Well, it wasn't the Law. The Law is strong. It condemns. You and I are the weak links.

Starting again 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 (emphasis added)**. That is a powerful statement because He did come in the flesh. Anyone who tells you He didn't is talking from the spirit of the Antichrist. It is a lie because He was manifested in the

flesh, and despite going through all the temptations He went through, that we read about, being tempted on all points as we are, He was without sin. This is the testimony we find in Hebrews four.

We know He experienced fear in the garden because He asked the Father, “To take this cup from Him.” However, none of these things caused Him to sin. He never turned to the right or to the left. He did not cater to fear. He did not give in. He went to the cross knowing what he had to bear, and because of it, we who call upon His name and believe in Him have life.

So this is why He came—**that the righteous requirement of the Law (Romans 8:4)**. The first thing to acknowledge here is what does the Torah require? Righteousness. This is what it is calling forth. This is what it's about. It declares righteousness. It requires it. It declares love.

Again from the beginning of Romans 8:4—**that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (emphasis added)**. Did you get that because this is where things get really intense? We just discovered here according to Romans 8, according to the Apostle Paul, salvation is not for every believer. Not every believer is going to make it. There are a lot of believers in Jesus who are going to go to hell. Read Matthew 7:21-23—²¹ **Not everyone who says to Me, ‘LORD, LORD’.... They're going to call Him by name. They have dedicated their lives to serving Him and proclaiming His name. Yet—And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice Lawlessness’ (Matthew 7:23)!**

Paul is playing off of this. Just because you call upon the name of Yeshua, you're not getting in. So who is getting in within this pool of believers? If not everyone's getting in, who is getting in? Only those who walk—**according to the Spirit (Romans 8:4)**. Only those who walk according to the Spirit are getting in. If you walk according to the flesh, you are going to die. If you walk according to the Spirit, you will be set free.

John says the same thing 1 John 1:6—**If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth**. John provides us with the relationship tester in 1 John 2:3-4—³ **Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him**. That makes me want to know what the commandments are because I need to know if I'm in a relationship. It's a test or the ultimate test.

Now listen to this in 1 John 1:7—**But if we walk in the light (emphasis added)**. What does Proverbs 6:23 say? **For the commandment is a lamp, And the Law a light**. I want to walk in the light. I'm to walk in the Torah. Or as Paul says—**I am to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)**. You need to start defining these terms.

Starting again in 1 John 1:7—**But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (emphasis added)**. Interesting! Does the blood of Messiah cover every believer? No. It covers only those who—**walk in the light**. If we—**walk in the light**—then the blood of the Messiah Yeshua will cover us. You see, there is only a remnant of believers who are going to make it. Only a remnant!

Going back to Romans 8:5—**For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh (emphasis added)**. This is one of those debilitating verses you skim over and keep reading

thinking there is nothing to see here. I want to acknowledge this because if you have to do a test, or audit, as to where you are at in your relationship with the LORD, this is a good place to start. What do you meditate on? Are you meditating on coveting? Do you have idols set up in your heart and in your mind? Do you meditate on immorality or committing adultery in your heart? Do you take every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah? This is who you are. You can put on a show for us, but the LORD knows your thoughts, and whatever you're meditating on, that's who you'll be. If you're of the flesh, you will be thinking fleshly thoughts.

Continuing in Romans 8:5—**but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit (emphasis added)**. What are the things of the Spirit? It is what is in the Bible. It is His Word. We meditate on His Word. We meditate on the Gospel of Yeshua and what Yeshua did on the cross. We meditate on the price He paid for us so we could have grace. We meditate on the fulfillment of the Scriptures. This is where we need to be.

Moving on to Romans 8:6—**For to be carnally minded is death (emphasis added)**. So Paul is drawing this contrast. We have the mind of the flesh, and we have the mind of the Spirit. Now he says—**For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8:6)**. Do you see how it fits? Everywhere you go with Paul you see this. It is in his D.N.A. His theological D.N.A. is coming out all over the place—there are two paths; you choose one or the other.

Then Paul goes on to say—⁷ **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God [why is it enmity against God?]; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be (emphasis added, Romans 8:7)**. Do you understand?

So when you're traversing a path of flesh, you will refuse the Law. You will say, “No, I don't need that. I'm being led by the Spirit. Thank you very much, but I will go this new way.” That is terrifying because we have a lot of Christians, Christian pastors, preachers, and professors, and they have no idea. They don't realize what they've gotten themselves into. The delusion is so deep that they will look at you like you are the one who is lost, and the whole time not recognizing they are the ones who have fallen. Read the text in Romans 8:6-8. It makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up—those who are carnal; those who are rejecting the LORD, they will reject the Torah.

Moving on in Romans 8:8-9—⁸ **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** ⁹ **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (emphasis added)**. Notice how Paul is using the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Messiah them synonymously. They are one in the same. When you read John 14, this makes perfect sense. In John 14:23, Yeshua says—**We will come to him and make Our home with him**. He says this as in Yeshua and the Father in Him will come and make Our home. So the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ is the Holy Spirit. So if you do—**not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His**. That is frightening and shows you we need the Spirit of God.

Continuing in Romans 8:10—¹⁰ **And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness**. What does it say in Psalm 119:172? **For all Your commandments are righteousness**.

Romans 8:13-14—¹³ **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.**

When Paul says—**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14)**—it is helpful to understand this in the context of what's laid out biblically. I traverse in the commandments of God. I traverse in the righteousness of God. I traverse in the truth of God. This is who I am. This is who we need to be. We need to be Spirit filled believers. When you ask someone if they are a Spirit filled Christian, and they answer, "I don't know," ask them if they are following Yeshua and keeping His commandments. That's the question to be asked. To be born again, as Yeshua talked about with Nicodemus, means crucifying the flesh with its passion and evil desires. We do what's holy; we walk in holiness. All right?

So with all that said, I want to take all this information we just went through, and I want to bring it back to Galatians. Galatians 5:16-17—¹⁶ **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 (emphasis added).** When Paul said— **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**—what did he just reveal to us?

It's interesting. Over the years I've had so many people come up to me, and you can see it on their face, and you can hear it in the tone of their voice. They are exhausted. So many times they have asked me, "Daniel, why am I going through this? Why is this happening to me? I'm following the LORD the best I can. Why am I experiencing these trials and tribulations? Why do the temptations in this addiction not leave?" My answer to them is, "Because you are at war." Who told you you're not at war? Who told you it was going to be easy because everything I read about in Scripture tells me the exact opposite. The only thing Yeshua promised in this life was tribulation, but be of good cheer because he's overcome the world. We can have inner peace, but we lose the fact we're at war.

If you're struggling with these things, I'm going to tell you right now, if you will not fight, you will die. I will say it again. If you will not fight, you're going to die. You have to fight these addictions. You have to fight the flesh. As long as you are in this flesh and until Yeshua comes back, the war will not end. Every single day you get up, your flesh is seeking to destroy you. Some of us get a day off every couple of days when the Spirit is so heavy on you, you feel like super Christian, and it feels like nothing can penetrate us to the point we get too puffed up.

Make no mistake. The Devil is coming back. We are told the enemy waits for the opportune time to hit you when you're weakest, and he's going to hit you with your addictions and the stuff your flesh is naturally given to. So if you struggle with immorality, it is coming. Get off the computer and stop looking at specific magazines. If you have a coveting problem, turn the T.V. off because it is nothing but ads.

We are in this system right now that is so anti-Yeshua and anti-God. This system is set up for you to do everything against the commandments of God. In a sense, all the cards are stacked against us. Thanks be to God, Yeshua went to the cross because without that we wouldn't survive this! However, through Him and His promise, He would send His Spirit to us to convict us and drive us to His Word, you have the power. **We can do all things through the Messiah Yeshua who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).**

So when you're going through these temptations, and you're experiencing these things, holdfast knowing your brothers and sisters are going through the same thing. Be encouraged. Go to the Word. If you want to overcome these things, spend more time in the Word.

I think about Deuteronomy 8 and look at what the LORD did with Israel. If the Church today had to go through what they went through, nobody would make it. What they went through wasn't like, "We are

going to take the Caribous and Starbucks away, and we are going to take your job and 401K away.” In reality, the Israelites left Egypt and went into the wilderness where they had no food or water. Why? Because the LORD went out to test them to see whether they would keep His commandments or not.

That was the test. God will take from you and test you. We are in our wilderness; we're being tested. Are you passing the test? Are you caving in? The Israelites caved in because of the fear. Fear is crippling not just with women but with men too. It controls, and the enemy pulls us like puppets with strings because of fear. Don't allow him to do this. Fight the good fight.

2 Timothy 2:3-5—³You, therefore, must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (emphasis added). Look at the terms Paul is sharing with Timothy. He calls us soldiers. Paul is in the mindset of war. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules (emphasis added).

How many of you have read that? It says you will not receive the reward— unless he competes according to the rules [commandments of God]. You have to stay with them. Only then are you going to receive a reward.

Going back to Galatians 5:18—But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law (emphasis added). This is a very misunderstood term today. Unfortunately, much of Christianity is looking at this—*not under the Law*—as meaning they need to reject the Law. They will tell you they need to listen to the Spirit and reject the Law because they don't want to be—*under the Law*. The ironic thing is the very thing they're trying to avoid is what they're stepping into because for you to reject the Law, you will be brought under the Law. Do you see how diabolically evil Satan is? He gets Christians to look at certain Scriptures in the exact opposite way it was intended. It is amazing to me.

I marvel, and not that I'm intellectual because I wouldn't know anything without the grace of God. So I thank Him, but I look at the blindness on these people, and I marvel. It is the exact opposite all the way across the board. When you see all the issues coming, it's because they've twisted the Scripture and look at it in the exact opposite light or darkness.

Moving on to Galatians 5:19-20 where Paul is going to describe what it means to be—*under the Law*. Galatians 5:19-20—¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery. The word sorcery in the Greek is φαρμακεία, (*pharmakeia*). When you go back to the book of Exodus using the Septuagint, you find this is a fascinating term regarding how it is used. This is the term used for the Egyptians magicians who mimicked and produced a sign by turning their rods into snakes just like the LORD, through Moses, turned Moses' rod into a snake.

When you get into Revelation, it gets even a little more interesting. When you actually look at the definition, it really refers to the usage of drugs to poison. This is the usage of drugs for witchcraft. You will notice in Revelation the harlot who sits on the beast has a cup of wine. She's making the nation's drunk with the wine of her fornication. It says she seduces the nations which is φαρμακεία, (*pharmakeia*).

Continuing in Galatians 5:20-21—²⁰ **hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,** ²¹ **envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries.** Drunkenness and revelries are basically the same things. All these things you can find in the Tanakh. The Tanakh speaks against everything he's listed. Proverbs 31:35 says those who get drunk with wine forget the Torah—**Lest they drink and forget the Law.**

Isn't that interesting? So we can go back to the harlot riding on the beast who has the cup of wine that is making the nations drunk. What is she doing? She is making the nations forget the Torah.

Continuing in Galatians 5:21—**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 (emphasis added).** I want to be very clear. This is not a reference to those who stumble or have a momentary lapse and the Holy Spirit came and convicted them. They knew they did wrong, and then they go to their knees and ask for forgiveness. That is not the scenario being painted here. What is happening here is they are practicing these things. Their conscience is seared, and their heart is getting hard. They are thinking, "I'm going to do this because I want to do this. I will look at the other things that are easy for me in the Bible and do those instead."

How often do we do that thinking, "Oh yeah. I've got this. This is great," but we somehow skim over the parts that speak right to us. We don't want to change. We don't want to hear. That is what "practicing" is referring to. Those individuals who practice will not be in the Kingdom.

I want to take you to 1 John 3:6-7 quickly—⁶ **Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.** ⁷ **Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous (emphasis added).**

There is something I've discovered in talking with pastors, professors, and lay Christian people. When I tell them all believers in Yeshua should love Him, keep His commands, go to the Torah, and seek how to please Him, their response is generally, "Nobody can do that. It is not possible because nobody can keep the commandments." Jeremiah 18:11-12 literally says when God came to Israel and told them to turn back and keep His commandments, they said—¹² **That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.**

What I am telling you is it is possible to walk in righteousness. If it weren't, John would never say—**He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous (1 John 3:7).** We are able to do that through faith in Him.

1 John 3:8- ⁸ **He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.** ⁹ **Whoever has been born of God does not sin [why?], for His seed [the Holy Spirit] remains in him [remains, it is not taken like Saul]; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God [Rebirth as in a born again believer].** ¹⁰ **In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother (emphasis added).** This is exactly what the Apostle Paul just conveyed in Galatians. The people who practice wickedness and do these things, they are not of God.

Moving on to Galatians 5. We were talking about the wickedness and what it means to be under the Law or to be condemned by the Law. Now we come to the fruit of the Spirit. Fruit means to bear something. Galatians 5:22-23—**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love** [the opposite is hate], **joy** [the opposite is depression]. Depression is the sorrow of the world. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7:10—the sorrow of the world produces death. That is not the Holy Spirit. So when you are looking at all these other people who have all these fancy gadgets and nice homes, and it seems like all the world is their oyster, remember you are not supposed to be looking at those things to desire them because they cause the sorrow of the world. You're breaking the tenth commandment of coveting.

Yeshua should be enough. If you are coveting these things, I'm telling you right now you have a problem with your relationship with the LORD. Yeshua should be enough.

Continuing again in Galatians 5:22-23—**Love, joy, peace**. This is not the peace of the world. Scripture says we are not to seek their peace or prosperity. We are supposed to seek the inner peace we get from the comfort of knowing what Yeshua did on the cross. We are to have peace knowing He is coming back. To do that brings us peace. No matter what tribulation we face, it's not a big deal. We can still rejoice like the Apostle Paul by sing hymns while being chained in prison. That's the faith.

Continuing in Galatians 5:22-23—**Longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no Law.**

Think about what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:9—**the Law is not made for a righteous person, but for the Lawless**. That's who the Law is for. If we're walking in the Spirit, as Paul commands us to do, the Law can say nothing against you. If I drive down the road and the speed limit is fifty-five, and I am going fifty-five, I'm not going to get pulled over. I'm within the confines of the Law. I'm free; I'm under liberty to go wherever I want as long as I'm within the parameters of the Law. If I break the speed limit and do 100 miles an hour, now I'm going to come under the Law. It is very simple, right?

Going to Galatians 5:24 to wrap this up—**And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. We are living in an age immersed in the filth of desires. All we know how to do is covet, and whatever we want, we want it now. We'll get credit cards because we want things now. We may not have the money to pay the credit card, but that is irrelevant.

It's a scary environment we're living in, and we need the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We need to be confessing and praying to Yeshua daily to survive this wicked generation we're in.

Here is our last verse from Galatians 5:25-26—**²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**