

**Date:** 28 May 2023

**Scripture Passage:** Galatians 6:5-10

**Title:** Sowing To The Spirit (Part 2)

## Introduction

- We continue on with the second part of this message “Sowing to the spirit”. This title is based on v8 “for he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the spirit will of the spirit rip everlasting life”. We are to sow to the spirit. What does it mean to sow to the spirit? We have seen over the past two weeks, A true Christian lives a changed life, with the power of the Spirit. The nature of the true Christian is changed. And that is shown by the practical action or behavior in the life of the Christian. How does this new life, led by the Spirit Show itself practically? That is what this message is about.
- Two parts to this message. V1-6, we see some Christian duties. V7-10, we see some Christian principles. Last week we had a great time diving into the practical aspects of living life as a Christian. We only had time to cover v1-4. Today we will cover the remainder of this passage from v5-10. But before we embark on that, let us have an overview of what we covered in v1-4.

## I. Some Christian duties (1-6).

- **Our duty towards other Christians (1-2).**
  - True Christians indwelt by Spirit (3:2; 4:6), led by Spirit (5:18), therefore walk by Spirit (5:25). How does one who is indwelt by the spirit, led by the spirit, and walking by the spirit show love to other Christians? There are two situations that we see here. First is in v1, when another Christian falls into sin. And the second is in v2, when they struggle to live Christian life.
  - When another Christian falls into sin (v1)
    - **Restore.** We all will fall into sin. Paul tells us to “restore such a one”. The whole purpose of church discipline is not to punish, but to restore one who has fallen into sin.
    - **In spirit of gentleness**, i.e meekness. There has to be genuine repentance. When we help the person in sin, do so to restore them, in the spirit of gentleness.
    - **Considering yourselves lest you also be tempted.** Don't get yourself drawn into sin. Know your limits, lest you also be tempted.
  - When they struggle to live Christian life (v2).
    - The Lord Jesus Christ has told us that he gives us a new commandment “Love one another”. In everyday life there are burdens. We ought to bear one another’s burden.
    - The Lord is good. He brings us into fellowship with other people to bear one another's burden. But we must have the eyes to see. Have the ears to hear. Even if you cannot physically help them, you can pray for them.
- **Our duty towards ourselves (3-5).**
  - Our duty to ensure we are not proud, think more highly of self than ought (3). Pride is where a person is deceiving himself. This leads to provoking & envying (cf. 26). Be in constant self-examination.
  - Our duty to rejoice in the good in others, but let us be able to rejoice in the good we do as well (4). Do not be envious of others. Examine your own work. We have a duty to ensure we are fruitful: in character growth, soul winning, and good works.
  - Our duty to prepare for judgement day (5). “Load” not “burden” (2). In verse 5, we see that we have a duty to prepare for judgement day. **Read v5.** What does the word “load” here mean? We saw earlier in v1 that we need to bear each other’s burden. The burden is one that stems from trespasses and sins. Each of us must bear our own load. This refers to the future when there will be the judgment, all of us will have to give an account of our sins before the Lord. There will be a day of judgment. We must be prepared for that day. On that day. You cannot fall back on your parents faith, you cannot fall back on the works that you have done.
  - Faithfulness called for. Cf. P. Talents (Matt. 25:14ff.), building upon foundation (1 Cor. 3:11-15). Are you storing up your treasures in heaven? On the day of judgement, will you say tell the Lord that I

attended church every Sunday. But what were you in that church? Did you contribute to the life of that church? Were you part of the trials and sorrow of that church? Are you storing up your treasures in heaven while you live life here on earth? Christ said that on that day, many will say “lord, lord, have we not....”. The Lord will respond “depart from me, for I never knew you, you workers of lawlessness”. Each of us have to bear load. We must be responsible for our life. Be ready to face judgment day.

- Our duty towards our teacher (6). **Read v6.** Who is the one that teaches referred to here in this verse? In any church, there should be an appointed teacher. We cannot be expert in everything life. Therefore, God has appointed elders and pastors in the church to help you on in the Christian life. You may study the bible yourself, and that is good. The spirit will enable you to have understanding. But you must not neglect the place of the teacher in the church. Often it is through your own reading. The same passage speaks to you, but not in the way that the preachers speaks to you. God uses the preacher to open up the scriptures and apply it to you in a way that you never experience when reading the Bible yourself. That is the amazing thing about public preaching. The preacher does not know what is in your mind. But as he preaches and shares the word of god, you know that God is having dealings with you. This is the work of the spirit. And therefore we must make sure that we attend church regularly to hear God's word.
  - In their material need. Teachers to teach without distraction. Tent-making sometimes, supported otherwise (1 Cor. 9:3-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18). So what does it mean to share in all good things with him who teaches? “Good things” reference to gospel progress (cf. Rom. 10:15; Heb. 9:11). Not only think of the good you derive from the teaching, but of how you contribute to the preacher. As Christians, we have a duty to support our teachers. At this church, we do not have a full time teacher. But when we do, we ought to support them financially. Here in v5, Paul is concerned that the people who have received the ministry of the local pastors in the Galatian regions, might not suffer poverty, but may be treated generously and be receiving this financial support that they need in order to function in the gospel. 1 Cor. 9:3-7
  - In their spiritual need. Fellowship & moral support. How else do we have a duty to our teacher? Your attendance is a contribution to the life of the church. That is a contribution to the teacher in the church. 3 John 1:4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”. The same applies to teacher of the church. And when there is a desire for God's work, a hunger for God's word, the preacher feels encouraged. Your presence is a great encouragement to the teacher of the word, your absence also minimizes the encouragement of the preacher.

## II. Some Christian principles (7-10).

- God rewards us according to our actions (7-8). The first principle to undergird all these duties is the fact that God rewards according to our actions. **Read v7-8.** Here is the picture of the farmer. He sows and later he reaps. If he sows good seed on good soil, he can expect a good harvest. But if he uses bad seed or bad soil, how can he expect good harvest? So also if you are led by the spirit, you want to walk by the spirit, then you ought to sow to the spirit. *And what Paul's saying here? If you sow the flesh, what do you expect? To reap the spirit? It's just not gonna happen. What you harvest, is what you reap. If you sow the flesh, you will reap of the flesh. You know that every single day that we live, we are involved in the business of sowing. Are we sowing to the flesh? Or are you sowing to the spirit? Do those things that are right in the eyes of God. Do those things that your conscience are clear about. Do those things that you know will lead to God's glory. And you know that you will rip everlasting life. He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption. Corruption is in contrast to Everlasting life. It refers to the quality of life. God's blessing will be upon those who are his. And do you not want that type of blessing? So we must remember how you live now, how you serve the Lord now will determine the blessing you receive in heaven. **1 Cor 3:11-17.** Gold, silver and precious stone do not fear the fire of judgment. The fire of judgment can only burn away the dross and make us more pure. We want to build our life with gold, Silver and precious stones.*

- Perseverance in doing good will be rewarded (9). The second principle found in verse 9 is perseverance in doing good will be rewarded. **Read v9**. The devil often uses two things weapons.
  - The first is Fear. You fear man. You fear your safety. You fear your family. You fear for your reputation. You fear for your career. You fear you fear, and therefore you're crippled in your usefulness to God.
  - The second weapon that the devil uses is discouragement. Nehemiah knew this. The enemy tried to cause fear, and when that did not succeed, they tried to cause discouragement to him. When you are discouraged, you don't have motivation to do anything good. The potential for doing good is there, but you don't have the heart or motivation for it. The Christian that has no heart or motivation to do good work will be rendered useless. Don't allow that to happen to you. Don't allow yourself to be discouraged.

Story of William Carey. After 7 year. Fire. He started from scratch. He reproduced dictionary and soon he was able to translate the Bible into 32 Indian languages. He was not going to give up easily, he plodded on. **That is why, when what is right, good, and true before God, you must do and don't give up**. Plod on. Don't allow discouragement to drag you down. Persevere on and don't give up.

- Opportunities for doing good must be used wisely (10). Finally, opportunities for doing good must be used wisely. **Read v10**. The Greek word “opportunity” refers to distinct period of time, not occasional moments. Therefore, a better translation may be “since we have opportunity”, and not “whenever we have opportunity”. God gives us the opportunity. The opportunities are already there. Don't wait until there is opportunity. No, the opportunity is already there. So therefore do it do good. You can't do good to everyone in the world. Do as you are able, starting from the household of faith. We have to take care of fellow Christians. “Do good to all, especially those of the household of faith”.

Look around you. These are your spiritual brothers and sisters. They have their burdens. They need your help. They need your presence. They need your encouragement. They need your support. See that we do good Starting from the household of faith. That those who are faithful in little will be faithful in much.

### Summary and Close

- Who here is indwelt by the spirit, led by the spirit, live by the spirit, and sow to the spirit? The challenge for all of us is to examine ourselves. Are you a true believer? Repent and have faith in Christ. Call out to Him and he will give you rest.
- Are you sowing to the spirit in carrying out your duties toward other Christians? Are you listening to the cry of help from a fellow Christian? Are we bearing the burden of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? One who has repented and believed in Jesus Christ is led by the spirit. Then you should walk in the spirit. And you should sow in the spirit. Let us put ourselves at our at God's disposal. May God use us to his glory.