

**Those Led of the Spirit Are Not Under Law—The Rest Are:**

**Galatians 5:13-18** OCTOBER 30, 2022

The first verse of our passage refers to being “called”, the last verse of our passage refers to being “led by the Spirit”. What we often mean: God led me to talk to that person, buy a certain car, work at this company, take this ministry etc...

Not wrong but not the point. “Led by the Spirit” involves the entire Christian experience start to finish. The Spirit led are the children of God being continually guided into all that sonship/daughtership involves.

**I. No one is a brother until He answers the call agreeably: vs 13**

*That you have been called* to liberty means that God has given you a perfect righteous standing before Him that cannot be improved on.

That you have been called to liberty means that **you are not related to God through the Mosaic covenant**, which has been terminated.

Joshua 8:30-35. Those people dare not ignore *a word* of that reading of the holy law. Those people were not saved by law-keeping, but their relationship to God was governed and conditioned by this covenant.

This is not true of you. No part of that covenant *forms the basis* of your relationship to God. Not Israel's **ceremonial** law, nor Israel's **civil** law, nor the **moral** law: Romans 7:7.

This sounds like a moral/ethical normless scandal in the making!

Galatians 5:13 “the flesh”

**Super abounding grace is the very fuel, food, and nourishment of a holy life.** A Christian can't continue in sin *the way he did before his salvation experience*. He is united to Christ, alive to God, the new creature in Christ can't *continue in sin* the way the old man in Adam could.

It is more possible that a Zebra will juggle oranges than a regenerated person united with Christ who “hates lawlessness” will *continue in sin the way a lost person continues in sin.*

**Bill Fortner—fellows I can't**

## II. The meaning of being “led of the Spirit” raises questions about our response to the caller.

Thayer's Greek-English lexicon gives the following thoughts:

- (1) “To lead by laying hold of” The Holy Spirit lays hold on people's minds while they are in spiritual darkness and ignorance and leads them into light and the grace of God revealed in the scriptures.
- (2) “To lead by accompanying” to or into a place. Children of God have the Spirit's presence. He abides with us and indwells us.
- (3) “To move and impel the mind” The Spirit's leadership is an inward enlightening: I Corinthians 2:10-12.

A. The Spirit's call is to agree with God that we have sinned against God and man and cannot by ourselves make acceptable.

How people freeze in spiritual Summer.

B. Where is the love? Where is the thanks for the gift?

## III. Regenerated people can receive false teaching: vs. 15

The biting and devouring are already underway--

**You have a strong promise for a strong conflict : 5:16.**

A. This promise is very strong--it is emphatic.

B. This promise is not freedom from sin absolutely; it is a promise that you will not be dominated by the flesh, it is a promise that there will be fruit in the form of love in your life: from glory to glory.

C. This strong promise is a paradox: The Spirit is completely sovereign and man is completely responsible: "It is a hundred-hundred proposition." Faint yet pursuing. Jesus was wearied with his journey.

This is why it is a true saying "that a Christian is never more fully himself than when he or she is filled with the Holy Spirit."

Neither law nor license will subdue your rebellious flesh: Can't fence it is/ Can't let it loose

How do you walk in the Spirit? vs.18 say "we are led." "In this verse the emphasis is on the spiritual inability in which man lives, if he has only the law. He is defenseless against the flesh." Law is no defense against the flesh--except external restraint.

We will please who we love most.

The Spirit gives impulses through the memorized or the preached word.  
2. At that moment the conflict begins to be won or lost: being led is not simply a passive mood; your will is involved--willing to be led, and willing to choose.

What can be done about our weak wills?

1. Philippians 2:12,13 Recognize (God working in you--energizing) it is the wanting to do and the doing of his good pleasure.
2. Recognize love as success: People need to know they are loved by God with calvary love.

A student approached a Bible college teacher and told him that previous to receiving Christ—he used to have sex with animals—and could he ever now expect to live a pure life? Could he? Is the gospel enough? John 20:17 Yes

Are you led of the Spirit? Romans 12:1,2

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## How People Freeze in Spiritual Summer: Resisting The Holy Spirit

People, however, are not merely spiritually inconsiderate, they often make direct efforts to suppress the rising conviction of guilt and danger. The testimony of God against them is so obvious; their want of conformity to it so glaring, and the convicting influences of the Holy Spirit are so frequent, that conviction of sin can't fail to be noticed, even in those who are generally unconcerned.

It is however a discomfoting conviction, and so instead of being welcomed and being led to the gospel of God who is a sun and a shield who gives grace and glory withholding no good thing from those who walk uprightly—it is instead disregarded or suppressed. The mind refuses to dwell on the subject or take heed to the increased number of providential warnings choosing instead to **resist and grieve away the Spirit of God**, hardening itself. This is a common experience in the history of many people: Genesis 6:3a.

They struggle against the conviction of sin and danger, and in general succeed in quenching such impressions. This struggle is sometimes short; at other times it is long and painful. Victory comes at last, and the soul regains its usual calloused unconcern. Such persons little realize what they are really doing. **They little suspect that they are struggling to escape the grasp of mercy; they are striving against the Holy Spirit, who would draw them away from the paths of destruction, and guide them into the way of life.**

Charles Hodge THE WAY OF LIFE p. 83-85

## Giving Attention to *The Call* Lessons False Starts

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall **call**. Acts 2:39

Among whom you also are **the called** of Jesus Christ... Romans 1:6

God is faithful, by whom **you were called** into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I Corinthians 1:9

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who **called you** into the grace of Christ, to a different gospel... Galatians 1:6

For you, brethren, have been **called to liberty**; only do not use your liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you **were called**.... Ephesians 4:1

There is one body, and one Spirit, just as you **were called** in one hope of **your calling**... Ephesians 4:4

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also **you were called** in one body; and be thankful. Colossians 3:15

For God did not **call us** to uncleanness, but unto holiness. I Thess. 4:7

... because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which **He called you** by our gospel.... II Thess. 2:13,14

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which **you were also called**.... I Timothy 6:12

Who has saved us **and called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.... II Timothy 1:9

## Christ is Sufficient

1. Nothing I've done could merit God's grace;  
Nothing I'll do can take it away.  
I have one hope in life and death;  
I have been clothed in Christ's righteousness!
2. Nothing remains since Jesus has died;  
Justice was paid--the Judge satisfied.  
Great is my sin; greater His love;  
I have been cleansed with Calvary's blood!
3. Nothing I've sought on earth satisfies;  
I was designed to thirst after Christ.  
Beckoned by Him, "Drink and be filled,"  
I am content, yet yearn for Him still.
4. Nothing but Christ can undo the Fall;  
He will return to reign over all.  
Come to us, Lord; right every wrong.  
Soon the redeemed will join heaven's song.

Chorus: Christ is sufficient!  
His work is finished!  
He is my faith's Author and End;  
Christ is enough--my Savior and Friend.