

Galatians 4:9-14

9. But now after you have known God, **or RATHER are KNOWN by GOD**, how is it that you turn again to **the WEAK and BEGGARLY ELEMENTS**, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

- **I Corinthians 8:3** "But if anyone _____, this one is _____ Him."
- **Galatians 4:3** "Even so we, when we were children, were in _____ under the _____ of the _____."
- **John 10:14-15** "I am the Good _____; and I _____ My _____, and am _____ by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father: and I lay down My _____ for the _____."
- **Matthew 7:22-23** "Many will say to _____ in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in _____ name, and done many _____ in _____?' And then I will declare to them, 'I _____ you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"

Definition: "Or RATHER are KNOWN by GOD" - Because we are human, our pride and human nature wants to think **that somehow WE found our way to God, and WE got to know Him by our own dedication, or wisdom, or intelligence, or whatever**. Actually, we would never know God if He did not **first KNOW US and LOVE US**, and draw us to Himself.

- **I John 4:19** "We love _____ because He _____ loved _____."
- **John 6:44** "No one can _____ to _____ unless the _____ who sent Me _____; and I will raise him up at the last day."
- **John 12:32** "And I, if I am _____ up from the earth (on the CROSS), will _____ all _____ to Myself."

Definition: "Unless the FATHER who sent Me DRAWS HIM" - This is one of the most profound truths of the Bible, and yet the most misunderstood. Perhaps we will never FULLY understand it until we reach heaven, but we CAN ACCEPT IT BY FAITH for now. We have a free will, and everyone MUST CHOOSE to ACCEPT CHRIST in order to be saved. God will not FORCE US against our free will, but **He DRAWS certain ones to Himself and to Jesus**. I believe PRAYER has a lot to do with God drawing certain ones to Jesus, but again, WHO put it in a person's heart **to pray for that other person** in the first place? God did.

- **Ephesians 1:4** "Just as He _____ us in Him _____ the _____ of the world, that we should be _____ and without blame before Him in love."
- **John 6:65** "And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that _____ can _____ to Me _____ it has been _____ to him by My _____."

Definition: "Unless it has been GRANTED to him by My Father" - God GRANTS (gives the ability) for anyone to believe in Jesus. In John 6:44 we see that NO ONE can come to Jesus unless **the Father DRAWS him and does a work in his HEART**. All three persons of the Godhead are involved, as **the FATHER** draws us **TO JESUS, the SON**, and He does it **BY the HOLY SPIRIT** (see Acts 7:51, John 16:7-11). Where does our FREE WILL come into all this, then? According to Acts 7:51, it is possible for

someone to RESIST the working of the Holy Spirit, so man's free will is used in a negative sense of RESISTING the DRAWING of God. The unsaved will be JUDGED for REJECTING Jesus, which in Matthew 12:31-32 is called "**the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit,**" or the "UNFORGIVEABLE SIN." Why is RESISTING the Holy Spirit unforgiveable? Because it is the **Holy Spirit who convicts men IN THEIR HEARTS** of the truth about Jesus (John 15:26; John 16:7-14), and to ignore or REJECT that convicting means there is **NO other WAY** for a person to believe and be saved (Hebrews 6:4-6; Heb. 10:29; John 14:6). Since **all other sins are forgiven** when a person accepts Jesus as Savior, then **the SIN of hardening their hearts against the convicting of the Holy Spirit and RESISTING the DRAWING of God** (thus rejecting that forgiveness AVAILABLE through Jesus) has no way of being forgiven.

- **Acts 7:51** "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in _____ and _____! You always _____ the _____; as your fathers did, so do you."

Definition: "The WEAK and BEGGARLY ELEMENTS" - "Elements of the world" is the same as "**basic principles of the world**" in Colossians 2:8 & 20, and it means the basic, worldly rituals of man-made religion - people trying to reach God through a human system of works. **These religious "elements" are "WEAK and BEGGARLY" (worthless) compared to the richness and majesty of our FAITH in JESUS CHRIST and what He has done for us.** Jewish believers, BEFORE they were SAVED, were like SLAVES under the Hebrew rituals. Gentile believers had been "slaves" and in bondage to their HEATHEN GODS and goddesses, and every false religious system out there in the world. When Paul asks, "**Why are you turning again to the WEAK and BEGGARLY ELEMENTS,** to which you desire again to be in bondage?", he is **WARNING Christian Believers NOT to put themselves back under that kind of BONDAGE of RELIGIOUS RITUALS** and regulations (commandments), whether of Jewish or Gentile religion.

- **Colossians 2:8** "Beware lest anyone _____ you through philosophy and _____ deceit, according to the _____ of _____, according to the basic _____ of the _____, and not according to Christ."
- **Colossians 2:20-23** "Therefore if you _____ with _____ from the _____ principles of the _____, why, as though living in the world, do you _____ yourselves to _____ - 'Do not _____, do not _____, do not handle,' which all concern things which perish with the using - according to the _____ and _____ of men? These things indeed have an _____ of wisdom in self-imposed _____, _____ humility, and _____ of the _____, but are of _____ value against the _____ of the _____."

10. You OBSERVE days and months and seasons and years.

- **Colossians 2:16** "Therefore let no one _____ you in food or in drink, or regarding a _____ or a new moon or _____, which are a _____ of things to _____, but the _____ is of _____."

Definition: "You OBSERVE days and months and seasons and years" - The keeping of certain holidays or religious festivals was an important part of the Jewish religion. God gave the nation of Israel several holy days (holidays) to observe and keep every year, which were representative of what God had done for them as a people (such as observing the Passover, to remember their deliverance from Egypt),

and it was a sin to not observe those days. **These were for the Jewish people, the nation of Israel, but for us as Christians, as believers under the New Covenant, those DAYS and MONTHS and YEARLY festivals are no longer necessary.** God deals with us as individuals, not as a nation, as He did with Israel. However, in Romans chapter 14, Paul addresses the problem of some Christians judging other Christians for still observing certain holy days and sabbath days. Paul said **it is not required of us as Christians**, but if a weaker, new baby Christian wants to still observe those holy days, to let him alone, and leave it to be between him and God. So, if some people want to worship on the Sabbath (Saturday), that is their business, and **Romans 14:1-6 says that we are not to argue with or put down those who are "weak" in their understanding of Scripture, and we are not to judge one another on the basis of what holidays and days of worship we decide to keep.** However, many of those who teach that we MUST keep ALL of the Ten Commandments, including keeping the Sabbath, take Scripture verses out of context, and even twist them to try to prove their point, and that is wrong. **They, and the false teachers of Paul's day, are trying to put people back under the BONDAGE of RELIGIOUS RITUALS, according to the "WEAK and BEGGARLY ELEMENTS" of this world.**

- **Romans 14:5-6** "One person esteems one _____ above another; another esteems every _____ alike. Let each be fully _____ in his own mind. He who _____ the _____, _____ it to the Lord; and he who does _____ observe the _____, to the Lord he does _____ observe it....."

11-12. I am afraid for you, **LEST I have LABORED for you in VAIN.** Brethren, I urge you to **become as I am, for I am as you are.** You have not injured me at all.

- **I Thessalonians 3:5** "For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your _____, lest by some means the tempter (Satan) had tempted you, and our _____ might be in _____."

Definition: "LEST I have LABORED for you in VAIN" - Paul was afraid that all the work he had done (labored) would be worthless (in vain) if the Galatian believers tried to go back to Judaism and legalism. We can sometimes feel the same way, but we need to trust God, that whatever we have done for His kingdom will eventually fulfill His will and bring glory to Him.

- **Philippians 2:16** "Holding fast the _____ of _____, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have _____ run in _____ or _____ in _____."
- **I Corinthians 15:58** "Therefore, my beloved _____, be _____, immovable, always abounding in the _____ of the _____, knowing that your _____ is _____ in _____ in the Lord."

Definition: "I urge you to BECOME AS I AM" - Paul, when he was Saul of Tarsus, **had been a proud, legalistic, self-righteous Pharisee, but he gave all of that up to become a "sinner saved by grace"** and completely trust in what Christ had done for him on the cross, and not trust in his own works. He urges the Galatians not to fall back into that same kind of legalism and "works religion," but to become **as he is now - completely trusting in the finished work of Christ on the cross.**

- **Acts 14:15** "And saying, 'Men, why are you doing these things? We also are _____ with the same _____ as you, and preach to you that you

should _____ from these _____ things to the _____ God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them."

13-14. You know that **because of PHYSICAL INFIRMITY I preached the GOSPEL to you** at the first. And **my TRIAL which was in my FLESH** you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

- **I Corinthians 2:3-5** "For I was with you in _____, in _____, and in much _____. And my _____ and my preaching were _____ with persuasive words of _____ wisdom, but in demonstration of the _____ and of _____, that your faith should _____ be in the _____ of _____ but in the _____ of _____."
- **II Corinthians 12:7-9** "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the _____, a _____ in the _____ was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My _____ is _____ for you, for _____ strength is made perfect in _____. ' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the _____ of _____ may rest upon me."

Definition: "Because of PHYSICAL INFIRMITY I preached the GOSPEL to you"

- Paul had some kind of physical infirmity (he called it a "thorn in the flesh"), which some have thought was a sickness or that he had poor eyesight. We don't really know what it was, but it was something that could be seen by others, and that caused him some kind of handicap. Whatever it was, it caused Paul to completely rely on God's power as he preached the gospel to the Galatians, or to any other group of people. God told Paul, and He says the same thing to us, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** We should not be afraid to admit we are weak in our own selves, and to completely trust and **rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to do God's work.**

- **Philippians 4:13** "I can do _____ things through _____ who _____ me."
- **Ephesians 6:10** "Finally, my brethren, be _____ in the Lord, and in the _____ of His _____."
- **Isaiah 41:10** "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your _____. I will _____ you, yes, I will _____ you, yes, I will uphold you with My righteous _____."
- **Ephesians 3:20** "Now to _____ who is able to do _____ abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the _____ that _____ in us....."

Definition: "My TRIAL which was in my FLESH" - By "trial" Paul means **a time of testing that he went through, the results of which showed up in his fleshly body in the way of WOUNDS and SCARS.** In chapters 11 and 12 of II Corinthians, Paul tells about all the trials and testings he had been through, and how those "weaknesses" in his body were used by God **to keep him humble.** The Apostle Paul had seen such tremendous revelations from God, that it would be easy for him to become proud and conceited, thinking that somehow it was his own piety or spirituality that had earned him those revelations.

- **II Corinthians 11:24-27** "From the Jews five times I received forty _____ minus one (a severe whipping). Three times I was

_____ with rods; once I was _____, three times I was _____; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils (danger) of waters, in perils of _____, in perils of my own countrymen (the Jews), in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in _____ and _____, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness -- "

- **Romans 5:3-4** "And not only that, but we also _____ in tribulations, knowing that _____ produces _____; and perseverance [produces] character; and character [produces] hope."