

Galatians 5:6-8

6. For IN Christ Jesus neither CIRCUMCISION nor UNCIRCUMCISION avails ANYTHING, but FAITH working through LOVE.

- **Galatians 6:15** "For _____ Christ Jesus neither _____ nor uncircumcision avails _____, but a new _____."
- **Galatians 5:13** For you brethren, have been called to _____; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the _____, but through _____ serve one another."
- **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if anyone is _____ Christ, he is a _____; old things have passed _____; behold, all things have become _____."
- **Romans 2:26-29** "Therefore, if an _____ man keeps the righteous requirements of the _____, will not his _____ be counted as _____? And will not the physically _____, if he fulfills the _____, judge you who, even with your written _____ and _____, are a transgressor of the _____? For he is _____ a _____ who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a _____ who is one _____, and circumcision is that of the _____, in the _____, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."

Definition: "Neither CIRCUMCISION nor UNCIRCUMCISION avails ANYTHING" - To "avail" means to have effectiveness or do some good. Paul is saying here that the rite of circumcision is NOT EFFECTIVE for anything and DOES NO GOOD at all **for those who are in Christ.**

- **I Corinthians 7:18-19** "Was anyone called while circumcised? Let him not become uncircumcised. Was anyone called while uncircumcised? Let him _____ become _____. Circumcision is _____ and _____ is _____, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters."
- **Philippians 3:3** "For we are the _____, who _____ God in the _____, rejoice in _____, and have no confidence in the _____."

Definition: "The Circumcision" - This was a term used to refer to the Jews, the nation of Israel, because circumcision was the "sign" of their covenant with God. Jesus, however, brought in the NEW COVENANT (New Testament), and there is no longer any "sign" of our covenant that is in our flesh (our physical bodies). Our covenant with God is through the blood of Jesus, and it is a SPIRITUAL covenant. **The Holy Spirit performs a SPIRITUAL circumcision, a REMOVAL of our SINS and our OLD SIN NATURE from us** (Colossians 2:11-14), and causes us to be re-born and **MADE ALIVE in our spirits**. A person who has NOT had this SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH is **spiritually DEAD**, and they **cannot WORSHIP God in the spirit**.

- **Colossians 2:11-14** "In Him you were also circumcised with the _____ made _____, by putting off the body of the _____ of the flesh, by the _____ of _____, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were _____ with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being _____ in your trespasses (sins) and the _____ of your flesh, He has made _____ together

with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (sins), having _____
_____ the handwriting of requirements that was against us (God's law that we
could not keep perfectly), which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the
way, having _____ it to the _____."

Definition: "For he is NOT a Jew who is one OUTWARDLY" - Does this verse say that we, as Christians, are actually Jews? No, of course not! If someone takes this verse out of context and tries to use it that way, they are twisting Scripture, and not considering the whole context of what Paul is saying here. Paul is saying that being a PHYSICAL descendant of Abraham, a JEW, is not the important thing, but rather having the FAITH of Abraham in our hearts. **In the Old Testament, under the Old Covenant of Moses, being a Jew, and having the outward sign of circumcision** was the most important thing, or at least, the Jews thought so. **To God, it has ALWAYS been the inward spiritual quality of a man's heart** that is the most important thing. Now, as we are under the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus, it is our INWARD MAN that needs to be right with God. **NOTHING we do to our FLESHLY BODIES will make us right in the sight of God**, only a NEW BIRTH and a NEW HEART in Christ Jesus will make us righteous and in right standing with God. **We, as Believers in Jesus Christ, are NOT the nation of Israel, we are the CHURCH of God.** God makes a distinction between people, and we must be careful to see to whom He is speaking in a particular passage of Scripture. God has divided people into three distinct categories: (1.) Jews who do not believe in Jesus (unbelieving Jews, the nation of Israel), (2.) unbelieving Gentiles (sometimes called "Greeks"), and (3.) **the CHURCH of God, which is the body of Christ.**

- **Matthew 3:9** "And do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have _____ as our _____.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up _____ to _____ from these stones."
- **Galatians 3:29** "And if you are _____, then you are _____ seed (descendants), and _____ according to the promise."
- **I Corinthians 10:32** "Give no offense, either to the _____, or to the _____, or to the _____ of _____."
- **Ephesians 1:22-23** "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him (Jesus) to be the _____ over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."
- **Acts 20:28** "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the _____, among which the _____ has made you overseers, to _____ the _____ of _____ which He purchased with His own _____."

Definition: "FAITH working through LOVE" - Our **FAITH in Jesus Christ should show itself by our ACTIONS, and those actions should be MOTIVATED by GOD'S LOVE in our lives.** This is the same thing that James talks about when he says our faith should have "works" or corresponding actions.

- **James 2:14-17** "What does it profit, my _____, if someone _____ he has _____ but does not have _____? Can faith save him? If a _____ or _____ is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."
- **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before _____, that they may _____ your _____ and glorify your Father in heaven."

Definition: "KEEPING the COMMANDMENTS of God is what matters" - What are these commandments referred to here? Are they the Ten Commandments? No. The New Testament teaches that we are not under the law, but under grace, so how does that fit in with keeping the commandments of Jesus? The answer is found in several principles or truths which are repeated in the Scriptures: **1.)** If you love Jesus you will keep His commandments; **2.)** All the commandments are summed up in **"LOVE God and LOVE your neighbor as yourself"**; **3.)** The Holy Spirit gives us the love of God in our hearts and the power to carry out the commandments; **4.)** Keeping His commandments and **abiding in His LOVE** is proof that we belong to Him. So, it is a continuous cycle of God pouring His love into us so that we can keep His commandments, and our obeying His commandments keeps us abiding in His love. If God Himself gives us the power to love and keep His commandments, then what is our responsibility, what is our part in the equation? Jesus said, "You shall LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This means that we must be WILLING to ALLOW God to pour out His love in and through us. We must turn ALL of our strength and purpose, ALL of our emotions and feelings, ALL of our thought-life towards God, and **ASK Him to use us** as a container and channel of His love. When James says, **"FAITH by itself, if it does not have WORKS, is dead"**, the "works" spoken of here are **evidences** that a person's faith is real! Also, the works referred to here are not the works of the law, as in the Old Testament, but are **the WORKS of LOVE from the commandments of Jesus** in the New Testament. It does no good to just say to someone, **"I LOVE you and care about you,"** but you do nothing to help meet their physical needs with food, clothing, warm blankets, etc. This is our **"FAITH working through LOVE"** when we help to meet someone's needs. We must give them the gospel and try to meet their spiritual needs, of course, but the physical needs are the ones that are outward and seen. **James 2:14-17** is addressed to "Brethren", which means brothers, or in other words, Believers in Jesus Christ. James is saying **this is how true Believers in Jesus should act. TRUE FAITH will always have corresponding action.** In James 2:14-26, there is a warning to beware of those who are just "full of hot air" and show no real change in their lives or have anything to show for their supposed faith in Christ. A person who has asked God to take control of their life and Jesus to come into their heart SHOULD start acting like Jesus, even if only in small ways at first. A new Believer, of course, wouldn't have as many "works" as someone who has been saved a long time, but **they should have some EVIDENCE or PROOF in their life that indicate their faith is real.** A hunger for God's word, a desire to please Him and obey Him whenever they find out something in their life is not right, a desire to fellowship with God's people, and a concern that friends and family members come to know Christ - all of these things are **just a few of the evidences** that a person should have if their faith is real. **Some other Scriptures call it FRUIT** (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23) rather than WORKS, but in this context they mean the same thing.

- **Galatians 5:16 & 19-25** "I say then: Walk in the _____, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the _____." (Verse 19) "Now the works of the _____ are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like..... But the _____ of the _____ is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are _____ have crucified the _____ with its passions and desires. If we _____ in the _____, let us also _____ in the Spirit."
- **John 15:8** "By this is My _____ glorified, that you _____ much _____; so you will [prove to be] My _____."
- **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no _____ anything except to _____ one _____, for he who _____ another has _____ the law. For the _____, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not

covet,' and if there is any other _____, are all summed up in this saying, 'You shall _____ your neighbor as _____.' _____ does no harm to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the _____ of the law."

- **I John 2:7** "Brethren, I write no new _____ to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the _____. The old commandment is the _____ which you heard from the beginning."
- **I John 3:11** "For this is the _____ that you heard from the _____, that we should _____ one _____."

7-8. You ran well. Who **HINDERED** you from **OBEYING** the **TRUTH**? This persuasion **does NOT** come from Him who **CALLS** YOU.

- **Romans 16:26** "But now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the _____ of the everlasting God, for _____ to the _____ - to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."
- **I Peter 1:22** "Since you have purified your _____ in _____ the _____ through the _____ in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart."
- **Romans 10:16** "But they have not all _____ the gospel. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has _____ our report?'"
- **Galatians 3:1** "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not _____ the _____, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?"

Definition: "Who HINDERED you from OBEYING the TRUTH?" - To "Hinder" means to get in the way and try to prevent something from happening. This false teaching of the Judaizers was getting in the way of the Galatian Believers, keeping them from growing and maturing in "The Truth" of Christ, and causing problems. Paul says, "This persuasion (teaching) **does NOT** come from Him who **CALLS YOU**", which means it does NOT come from God. **God "CALLS US" to a NEW LIFE in Christ**, NOT to following the OLD LIFE of fleshly rules and regulations contained in the Law of Moses.

- **II Timothy 1:9** "Who has _____ us and _____ us with a holy _____, not according to _____, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to _____ in _____ Jesus _____ time began."
- **Ephesians 1:17-19** "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the _____ of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may _____ what is the hope of His _____ [for you], and what are the riches of the _____ of His inheritance in the saints [for you]; and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who _____, according to the working of His mighty _____."
- **Romans 6:4** "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as _____ was _____ from the _____ by the glory of the Father, even so we also should _____ in _____ of _____."