

Life in the Spirit — Standing in Freedom

I. Identity

A. Purpose of Christ —> the Reception of Sonship

B. Faith, the Conduit

1. Paternity

[Galatians 3:26](#) (ESV) for *in Christ* Jesus *you are all sons of God*, through faith.

2. Union and Communion

Knowing and Being Known — Renewal by
Encounter

[Galatians 4:9](#) **But now** that you have come to *know God*, or rather to be *known by God*,

[Ephesians 3](#) ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts *through faith* — that you, being rooted and grounded in *love*, ¹⁸ may have strength to *comprehend* ... what is the *breadth* and *length* and *height* and *depth*, ¹⁹ and to *know the love of Christ* that *surpasses** knowledge, that you *may be filled* with *all the fullness* of God.

*a degree which exceeds extraordinarily — ‘extraordinary, extreme, supreme, far more, much greater, to a far greater degree.

3. Heirs by Promise

II. Freedom is SHALOM

A. Work of Christ — Restoration of the Image of God

[Galatians 5:1](#) (ESV) **For freedom** Christ has **set us free**; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. *[slide 1]*

In every area where I am not free, the work of Christ has not completely conquered me. Mature or perfect LOVE will conquer every fear.

Freedom in EVERY sphere of Life

Access, Standing, Blessing, Righteousness

[Psalm 24](#) 3 Who shall **ascend** the hill of the Lord? And who shall **stand** in his holy place?

4 He who has clean **hands** and a pure **heart**, who does not lift up his **soul** to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. (**truth**)

5 He will **receive blessing** from the Lord and **righteousness** from the God of his salvation.

SHALOM —

God creates order, and where there is order, there is shalom (the last word of the priestly blessing). Shalom means more than peace. It means completion, wholeness, the integration of the parts into a single interlocking system, ordered complexity, harmony.

Jonathan Sacks, *Leviticus: The Book of Holiness, Covenant & Conversation* v. 3, (Maggid: Jerusalem, 2015), 255. Kindle Edition

1. Inner sphere

Shalom — Heart, Soul, Imagination, Capacity...

2. Relational spheres

Shalom — Family, Friends, Network of relationships, wider community and society

3. Creation

[Psalm 24](#)

1 The **earth** is the LORD's and the **fullness** thereof, the **world** and **those who dwell** therein,

Shalom — stewardship of opportunities, unlocking doors of possibility,

Shalom is **anchored in reality, truth**

B. Response and Responsibility of Faith

Galatians 5:1b ... stand firm **therefore**, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

STAND FIRM— Stick to your ground. Stay there. Stand UP not Stand DOWN (keep your armor on and your weapon ready, be ready for action)

DON'T SUBMIT (be **burdened**, be **entangled**, **get tied up**) **AGAIN** to a yoke of slavery...

1. Self-effort is spiritual bankruptcy.

self-effort, attempting to earn what Jesus paid for with LIFE and offers as a GIFT only through faith, trusting.

personal rituals can be helpful, but if the ritual becomes the focus, it becomes idolatry and bondage.

This is the point of vv 2-6

a. Losing the advantage of Christ's RICHES to live again in abject poverty

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept **circumcision**, **Christ** will be of **no advantage** to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts **circumcision** that he is **obligated** to **keep** the **whole law**.

b. Severed, Fallen away?

4 You are **severed** (*alienated, estranged*) from **Christ**, you who would be justified by the law; you have **fallen away** from **grace**.

Cut ourselves off from the **benefit of Christ's finished work & gift** beyond words

Fallen away from **Grace**, the only dynamic that can make us free, keep us free, and perfect our FREEDOM (shalom)

2. The Happiness of Faith working through Love

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything (*carries and value, has any weight*), but only **faith working through love**. (*is activated and brought to perfection through love*)

III. Called to Truth, Love and Freedom

A. Tragedy of Deception

7 You were running well (*kalos*). **Who** hindered you from obeying the truth?

8 This persuasion is **not from him** who calls you.

Not flesh and blood, but principalities, powers, spiritual wickedness in high places.

The spheres of acquaintances and culture

[Romans 1:18](#) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**”

Gender ideology, etc

In the end the Party would announce that two and two made five, and you would **have to believe it**. It was inevitable... ; the logic of their position demanded it.

Not merely the validity of **experience**, but the very **existence of external reality**, was **tacitly denied** by their philosophy.

The heresy of heresies was common sense.

The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command.

—Orwell, George. 1984 (p. 55). Kindle Edition.

B. Consequences — permeation

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

C. Freedom, Love, and Fulfillment (Abundant Life)

13 For you were **called to freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity* for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**.

*set up a base of operation, to indulge

14 For the **whole law is fulfilled** in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

D. A Warning against Cantankerous Words and Deeds

15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

IV. Walk in the Spirit! True Freedom

[Galatians 5:16](#) (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is *love...*

In every area where I am not free (fall short of LOVE), the work of Christ has not completely conquered me.

This requires FAITH and LOVE to conquer every fear. This is the work of GRACE through time and *Encounter*.

God continually pours His Grace into our world, not to make Himself happy—for He already is—but to share His joy with us! [It is the gift of Love]

Grace is the sunny and generous disposition of the Father *translated into every aspect of our lives*. It is *the ability of God* Himself to please Himself. It is *unearned and undeserved*. It flows from His goodness and power, unprovoked by our need or depravity. It is who He is. It *fills and liberates us* with the uncreated freedom of Heaven. It is a heavenly “**Get Out of Jail Free**” card! Grace is the necessary practical application of the unlimited love of God toward His darling creature, humankind, who is trapped by the repercussions of relational failure.

Grace changes everything. It carries the potential to deliver us from every manner of corruption inherent in a fallen world.”

V. Daily - Come, Drink, Fill, Stand in this Grace!

Breathe in the Breath of Christ — Drink the River that Makes Glad

Holy Spirit pour Love and SAVING, DELIVERING, BOUNTIFUL GRACE into My Heart

Guide into All the Truth

Reveal the Father & the Son — Spirit of Adoption

Adoption — Abba Father

Open the Eyes of my heart, that I might know

Convict, convince of sin, righteousness, and judgment

Liberate, Deliver

Sanctify — supernatural access, divine nature

Fill to overflowing (rivers to flow)

Clothe in Light, Fire, Wind, Oil,

Saturate

Empower

Speak to and through

Unpack the Gifts