

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-19 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Galatians 4:1, 2) 4 Now I say that as long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the lord of all things, 2 but he is under supervisors and stewards until the day set ahead of time by his father.

*** w08 3/1 p. 21 “The Law Has Become Our Tutor” ***

“MEN IN CHARGE” AND “STEWARDS”

Besides writing about a tutor, the apostle Paul also used the illustrations of “men in charge” and “stewards.” At Galatians 4:1, 2, we read: “As long as the heir is a babe he does not differ at all from a slave, lord of all things though he is, but he is under men in charge and under stewards until the day his father appointed beforehand.” The functions of “men in charge” and “stewards” were distinct from those of tutors, but the point that Paul wished to make was basically the same.

Under Roman law, a ‘man in charge’ was legally appointed to act as a guardian for an orphaned minor and to manage the child’s financial affairs until the child reached adulthood. Thus, says Paul, even though such a child was theoretically “lord” over his inheritance, while he remained a child, he had no more rights over it than a slave had.

A ‘steward,’ on the other hand, was an agent in charge of an estate’s financial matters. The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus says that a young man named Hyrcanus asked his father for a letter authorizing his steward to furnish Hyrcanus with money to buy whatever he needed.

So in common with being under a tutor, being under a ‘man in charge’ or under a ‘steward’ signified a lack of freedom while one was a minor. The child’s life was controlled by others until the time established by his father.

(Galatians 4:9) 9 But now that you have come to know God or, rather, have come to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again?

*** w18 July pp. 8-9 Whose Recognition Do You Seek? ***

THE GREATEST FORM OF RECOGNITION

4 What, then, is the greatest form of recognition that we can strive for? It is not the kind of attention that people seek in the academic, business, and entertainment fields of this world. Rather, it is the kind that Paul described for us in these words: “Now that you have come to know God or, rather, have come to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to the weak and beggarly elementary things and want to slave for them over again?” (Gal. 4:9) What a wonderful privilege it is to “come to be known by God,” the Supreme Ruler of the universe! He is willing to have an intimate relationship with us. As one scholar stated, we “become objects of his favourable attention.” When Jehovah acknowledges us as his friends, we achieve the very reason for our existence.—Eccl. 12:13, 14.

5 Moses experienced such a blessing. When he pleaded with Jehovah to allow him to come to know His ways more fully, Jehovah replied: “I will also do this thing that you request, because you have found favor in my eyes and I know you by name.” (Ex. 33:12-17) We likewise can receive wonderful blessings when Jehovah comes to know us personally. But how can we put ourselves in a position to be known by Jehovah? We do that when we come to love him and dedicate our life to him.—Read 1 Corinthians 8:3.

6 However, we need to maintain our treasured relationship with our heavenly Father. Like the Galatian Christians to whom Paul wrote, we too need to avoid slaving for “the weak and beggarly elementary things” of this world, including seeking its acclaim. (Gal. 4:9) Those first-century

Christians had progressed to the point of being known by God. However, Paul said that the very same brothers were “turning back again” to empty things. Paul was, in effect, saying: “After you have come so far, why would you return to the foolish, valueless things you left behind?”

7 Could we find ourselves in a similar position today? Yes, we could. When we first came to know Jehovah, we, like Paul, may have given up prominence in Satan’s world. (Read Philippians 3:7, 8.) Perhaps we gave up opportunities to receive higher education, or we may have turned down promotions or the possibility for making more money in the business world. Our musical talents or athletic abilities could have potentially led us to fame and wealth, but we turned our backs on all of that. (Heb. 11:24-27) How unwise it would be for us now to view such good decisions as ‘missed opportunities’! Such thinking might lead us to seek out what we already determined were among “the weak and beggarly” elements of this world.

*** w13 3/15 pp. 13-14 pars. 3-4 Having “Come to Know God”—What Now? ***

3 Christians in Galatia needed to check on the depth of their faith and to appreciate their spiritual freedom. By means of his sacrifice, Jesus had opened the way for those exercising faith in him to come to know God in a most extraordinary way—they could become sons of God! (Gal. 4:9) To remain in that most blessed relationship, the Galatians would have to reject the teachings of Judaizers, who were insisting that they observe the Mosaic Law. Why, uncircumcised Gentiles in the congregations had never even been under the Law! Jews and Gentiles alike needed to make spiritual progress. This involved recognizing that they could not establish their righteousness through the Mosaic Law arrangement.

INITIAL STEPS TO KNOW GOD

4 The apostle Paul’s counsel to the Galatians was recorded for a purpose: to prevent true Christians in any period from turning their backs on the riches of Bible truth and returning to the things behind. Jehovah inspired the apostle to encourage not only those in the congregations in Galatia but all His worshippers to remain steadfast.

(Galatians 5:13) 13 You were called to freedom, brothers; only do not use this freedom as an opportunity to pursue fleshly desires, but through love slave for one another.

*** w10 2/15 pp. 11-12 par. 9 Skillfully Wield “the Sword of the Spirit” ***

9 Understanding a Scriptural passage correctly requires that we consider the surrounding text. Paul’s statement found at Galatians 5:13 illustrates that need. He wrote: “You were, of course, called for freedom, brothers; only do not use this freedom as an inducement for the flesh, but through love slave for one another.” What freedom was Paul speaking of here? Was he referring to freedom from sin and death, from bondage to false beliefs, or from something else? The context reveals that Paul was speaking of the freedom that results from being ‘released from the curse of the Law.’ (Gal. 3:13, 19-24; 4:1-5) He was referring to Christian freedom. Those who appreciated that freedom slaved for one another out of love. Those who were unloving engaged in backbiting and bickering.—Gal. 5:15.

*** w10 5/15 p. 27 par. 14 Brothers—Sow to the Spirit and Reach Out! ***

We are moved to “slave” for our brothers out of love. (Read Galatians 5:13.) If we view ourselves as slaves working humbly in behalf of Jehovah’s dedicated servants, we will treat them with dignity and respect. Certainly, we would not imitate the critical, judgmental spirit promoted by Satan.—Rev. 12:10.

(Galatians 5:22) 22 On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,

*** it-1 p. 986 Goodness ***

A Fruit of the Spirit. Goodness is a fruit of God's spirit and of the light from his Word of truth. (Ga 5:22; Eph 5:9) It is to be cultivated by the Christian. Obedience to Jehovah's commands develops goodness; no man has goodness on his own merit. (Ro 7:18) The psalmist appeals to God as the Source of goodness: "Teach me goodness, sensibleness and knowledge themselves, for in your commandments I have exercised faith," and, "You are good and are doing good. Teach me your regulations."—Ps 119:66, 68.

*** it-2 p. 264 Long-suffering ***

Why is it important for Christians to cultivate long-suffering?

From the foregoing it is evident that long-suffering originates with Jehovah God. It is a fruit of his spirit. (Ga 5:22) Man, made in the image and likeness of God, has a measure of this quality and can develop it by following God's Word and the direction of his holy spirit. (Ge 1:26, 27) Christians are therefore commanded to cultivate and display this quality. (Col 3:12) It is an identifying mark of a minister of God. (2Co 6:4-6) The apostle Paul says: "Be long-suffering toward all." (1Th 5:14) He indicates that it is essential to exercise this quality in order to be pleasing to God.

*** w18 August p. 28 Patience—Endurance With a Purpose ***

In the Biblical sense of the word, patience is more than simply putting up with a trying situation. A person with godly patience endures with a purpose. He sees beyond his own needs and considers the welfare of the one causing a disagreeable situation. For this reason, when a patient person is wronged or provoked, he refuses to give up hope for improvement in the disturbed relationship. Little wonder, then, that the Bible

lists being "patient" as the first of many fine qualities that stem from love. (1 Cor. 13:4) God's Word also includes "patience" as an aspect of "the fruitage of the spirit." (Gal. 5:22, 23) What, though, does cultivating this godly quality require of us?

*** w18 November p. 28 Kindness—A Quality Expressed in Word and Action ***

Kindness—A Quality Expressed in Word and Action

HOW reassuring and comforting an act of kindness can be! When we realize that someone cares for us, we are grateful. Since each of us appreciates being treated with kindness, how can we develop this beautiful quality?

Kindness involves taking a genuine interest in the welfare of others—an interest that is expressed through helpful words and deeds. An active quality, kindness is more than a veneer of politeness and courtesy. True kindness is motivated by deep love and empathy. More than that, such kindness is part of the fruitage of God's holy spirit that Christians are told to cultivate. (Gal. 5:22, 23) We must develop kindness, so let us examine how Jehovah and his Son have shown this quality and how we can follow their example.

(Galatians 6:1) 6 Brothers, even if a man takes a false step before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness. But keep an eye on yourself, for fear you too may be tempted.

*** w12 4/15 p. 29 Jehovah Safeguards Us for Salvation ***

RESTRAINED FROM TAKING A FALSE STEP

8 The pressures of life and our own imperfections could cause us to lose our spiritual focus and put us in danger of taking a false step without our even being aware of it. (Read Galatians 6:1.)

This is illustrated by an incident that took place in the life of David.

9 While being hunted by King Saul, David had shown admirable restraint in not retaliating against that jealous monarch. (1 Sam. 24:2-7) But soon thereafter, David's imperfect impulses got the better of him. He was in need of provisions for his men and respectfully asked for assistance from a fellow Israelite named Nabal. When Nabal responded with insults, David became enraged and set out to avenge himself on the men of Nabal's entire household, failing to discern that killing innocent people would make him bloodguilty before God. Only the timely intervention of Abigail, Nabal's wife, saved David from making a calamitous mistake. Recognizing Jehovah's hand in the matter, David said to her: "Blessed be Jehovah the God of Israel, who has sent you this day to meet me! And blessed be your sensibleness, and blessed be you who have restrained me this day from entering into bloodguilt and having my own hand come to my salvation."—1 Sam. 25:9-13, 21, 22, 32, 33.

10 What lesson can we learn from this account? Jehovah used Abigail to restrain David from taking a false step. He does much the same for us today. Of course, we should not expect that God will send someone to intervene whenever we are about to make a mistake; nor can we presume to know precisely how God will act in any given situation or what he will allow in the outworking of his purpose. (Eccl. 11:5) Nonetheless, we can be confident that Jehovah is always aware of our circumstances and will help us to remain faithful to him. He assures us: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go. I will give advice with my eye upon you."

(Galatians 6:18) 18 The undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit you show, brothers. Amen.

*** w12 10/15 p. 12 pars. 1-3 What Kind of Spirit Do You Show? ***

WHEN writing to fellow believers, the apostle Paul repeatedly expressed his hope that God and Christ would approve of the spirit that the congregations displayed. For example, to the Galatians he wrote: "The undeserved kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit you show, brothers. Amen." (Gal. 6:18) What did he mean by "the spirit you show"?

2 Paul's use of the word "spirit" in this context refers to the impelling force that causes us to say or do things in a certain way. One person may be gentle, considerate, mild-tempered, generous, or forgiving. The Bible speaks well of "the quiet and mild spirit" and of being "cool of spirit." (1 Pet. 3:4; Prov. 17:27) On the other hand, another person may be sarcastic, materialistic, easily offended, or may have an independent attitude. Worse yet, there are those who show an unclean, disobedient, or even rebellious spirit.

3 Thus, when Paul used expressions such as "the Lord be with the spirit you show," he was encouraging his brothers to show a spirit in harmony with God's will and the Christlike personality. (2 Tim. 4:22; read Colossians 3:9-12.)