

# Faith expressed thru LOVE

**We hear all the time from preachers and pastors that we must walk in Love as it say in Ephesians 5:2**

We try to walk in this love, but many times we fail because our **mix of Grace with our own righteousness makes us fail, again and again.**

This makes us feel discouraged and frustrated, because it was never the intention from God for us to perform anything in our own power.

## **Galatians 5:6**

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

**This verse had me confused for many years.**

But what if I told you that this verse does not mean that we should try to walk in our own performance of love.

Checking on your love walk can mean many different things to people.

As a young Bible school student, I was taught that if your faith wasn't working, **it had to do with your love walk or lack thereof.**

The verse most commonly used to support this view was Galatians 5:6,

“Faith works by love.”

**The understanding is that walking in love causes faith to work.**

So, it is important that you don't have unforgiveness, resentment, anger, or any ill feelings toward people, as it could hinder or even stop your faith from working.

**I believed this way for several years; whenever it seemed like my prayers weren't being answered, I thought that I had gotten out of love somewhere.**

So then I conducted an internal review of my life to see if I might be holding a grudge or if I had mistreated someone or acted rudely.

Maybe I had called someone a fool under my breath who cut me off in traffic.

The list of possibilities seemed endless, **and I doubted I could remember everything that had happened in the past couple of weeks to identify where I had gotten out of love.**

**I needed to repent and fix it so that God would answer my prayers.**

I don't know about you, but trying to figure out where you stepped out of love that supposedly turned the switch of faith off was emotionally draining and awful.

**There is a reason Jesus said that knowing the truth will set you free (John 8:32).**

**I needed to be set free from the burden of thinking that my faith working was based on my performance.**

Praise God, the Holy Spirit helped open my eyes to the true meaning of Galatians 5:6, and that glorious freedom Jesus spoke about flooded my soul.

**Please don't misunderstand what I am saying; the Bible teaches us to walk in love, **but it isn't our love that we are to walk in; it's His.****

### **Ephesians 5:2**

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour”.

**Many Greek scholars have pointed out that this verse is more accurately translated as “Walk in the love God has for you.”**

This interpretation aligns with the theme of the entire verse: Christ loving and sacrificing Himself for us.

**If we lose sight of this amazing sacrifice God made for us, we won't be walking daily in the knowledge or revelation of His love for us.**

Returning to the correct understanding of Galatians 5:6, it is important for us to grasp the context of the chapter, which is almost a mini-review of what Paul taught the Galatians in the previous four chapters.

**They had been seduced by a religious group called the Judaizers, who poisoned their pure faith with laws and rituals.**

### **Galatians 3:1**

Paul pointed out that they had been bewitched or tricked.

**This new religion substituted Jesus with a focus on their own performance.**

**Mixing law with grace nullifies grace.**

### **Galatians 2:1**

“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose”.

The term “Judaizer” means to convert to Judaism.

This new doctrine, though not actually new, was unfamiliar to the Galatians, and it proved to cause harm to their faith in Jesus.

**Paul had to point out to them that before they adopted this new way of serving God, they had experienced miracles and wonderful things.**

**However, since they neglected Jesus, they weren't witnessing the same manifestations as before.**

### **In Galatians 5:1**

Paul tells them that they should stand in the freedom they have in Christ.

Whenever you believe you are not free in Christ, it's a clear sign that you've stopped standing in the freedom **that is already yours in Him.**

The Galatians needed to be reminded that the freedom they thought they could earn through their works and performance **had already been granted to them through all that Jesus accomplished for them in His death, burial, and resurrection.**

They didn't have to work for what God had freely given.

Anytime you think you need to work for something God has already given you, that is deception.

2 Peter 1:3

As believers in Jesus, we have everything we need for life and godly living in Christ.

**If you are in Christ, it is all yours to walk in.**

Paul is reminding the Galatians that **if** their righteousness or justification comes from keeping the law or any part of it, then Christ will not profit or benefit them at all.

In fact, he says, “You have fallen from grace!” (Galatians 5:4).

This term “**fallen from grace**” is often used in connection with a fellow believer who has gotten into bondage with some type of sin, such as alcoholism, drugs, or sexual promiscuity, etc.

**However, this term isn't used to describe those types of people; it is used to point out that believers who leave grace end up falling into legalism, thus, becoming self-righteous.**

It is important to notice that grace lifts us up; legalism causes us to fall.

The good news is that even if you fall into legalism and self-righteousness, God's grace is available to lift you out.

It delivered the Galatians from their fall, and it will work for you too.

**Proverbs 24:16**

“For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes”.

**Finally, in context, Galatians 5:6 says,**

**“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”**

Paul lets them know that it does not matter to God if you get circumcised or not.

**You could just as easily say, “It doesn't matter what you do or don't do.”**

What matters to God is that our faith works when we know about His love for us.

**The Galatians had jumped onto the performance train of works and self-righteousness and left Jesus behind.**

If the Holy Spirit says, "Check on your love walk," don't think He is telling you that your performance doesn't measure up and you must try harder.

**Rather, He is helping you focus on the One who loves you perfectly and completely so you can walk in the love God has for you.**

The beautiful truth is that the more we grow to trust the love God has for us, the more **our behaviour and actions mirror the love we received from God in the love we show to one another.**