

DAY 1 — SOUND THE ALARM: WHEN THE GOSPEL IS UNDER ATTACK

Galatians 1:3–5 (NIV)

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Devotional Thought

A husband is working on his truck, so focused that he barely notices his wife. After waiting patiently, she finally says calmly, “The house is on fire.”

Some moments demand urgency.

This was Paul’s tone in Galatians. No polite introductions. No small talk. No extended greetings. The churches had drifted from the pure gospel, and the consequences were catastrophic. A burning house requires immediate action. A drifting church requires the same.

The true gospel brings:

- **Freedom**
- **Peace**
- **Life**
- **Liberty**
- **Joy**

A distorted gospel brings:

- **Bondage**
- **Legalism**
- **Spiritual exhaustion**
- **Death**

Paul sounded the alarm because grace was under attack—and the stakes were eternal.

Reflection

- Where has God been trying to get your attention?
- Are you treating something urgent as optional?
- Has the gospel become routine instead of life-giving?

Prayer

Jesus, wake me up to Your truth. Help me recognize when I’m drifting and bring me back to the simplicity of Your grace. Amen.

DAY 2 — JESUS PAID IT ALL: WHY WORKS CAN'T SAVE YOU

Galatians 1:6–7

Devotional Thought

Paul was stunned—*astonished*—that the Galatian believers were so quickly abandoning the gospel of grace and turning toward a distorted version of Christianity. They weren't just drifting from a message; Paul said they were deserting **a Person**—Jesus Himself.

This is what happens when someone adds even the smallest requirement to salvation. The formula becomes:

Faith + Something = Salvation

And Paul says that is *no gospel at all*.

The moment you add works—effort, rule-keeping, performance—to the finished work of Christ, something dangerous happens:

- The focus shifts from **Jesus to you**
- Salvation becomes something you try to achieve rather than receive
- Relationship becomes religion
- Grace becomes exhaustion

Your efforts were never meant to be the foundation of your salvation.

Jesus paid it all—not most, not some, not a percentage you must complete. *All*.

But grace feels “too easy.” So believers often try to “help God save them” by adding spiritual activities, disciplines, or moral behavior as a requirement. Yet none of those things can rescue you. They are good, but they are **not saving**.

You don't read your Bible, pray, serve, or worship *to become* a Christian.

You do these things *because you already are* one.

Paul's alarm was simple:

Don't drift from grace.

Don't abandon the simplicity of the gospel.

Don't trust in what cannot save.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever felt the pressure to “perform” for God to feel saved or accepted?
2. What are some areas where you tend to rely on your works rather than Christ's finished work?
3. Why is it so tempting to try to “help God out” in saving us?

Prayer

Lord, keep my heart anchored in grace alone. Remove any confidence I've placed in my own efforts, and help me trust fully in what Jesus has already done for me. Amen.

DAY 3 — KNOWING ABOUT JESUS VS. KNOWING JESUS

Scripture Reference

Galatians 1:8–9

Devotional Thought

Paul makes one of the strongest statements in all his letters:

If anyone—even *an angel*—preaches a different gospel, let them be accursed.

Why such intensity? Because the Galatians were drifting away from a **relationship** with Jesus and settling for **information** about Him.

This is where many believers quietly slip into danger.

We live in a culture obsessed with celebrity. We talk about athletes, actors, musicians, and leaders as if we know them personally. We know their stats, their stories, and their headlines—but we have never met them.

Paul feared the church would treat Jesus the same way.

You can know:

- Facts about Jesus
- Stories from His life
- Verses about what He taught
- Songs about His love

...and still not **know Him**.

Paul wasn't defending a theological position—he was defending a Person. The Galatians weren't abandoning doctrines; they were abandoning *Him*.

It is possible to pray, read the Bible, go to church, serve, and talk about God—and yet slowly shift your trust from Christ Himself to your own religious performance. When this happens, faith becomes cold, heavy, and lifeless.

Paul's warning is not harsh; it is loving.
A false gospel cannot save you.
A secondhand relationship cannot sustain you.
Information about Jesus is not the same as intimacy with Jesus.

The gospel is not:
"Do more for God."
The gospel is:
"Jesus has already done everything for you."

Reflection Questions

1. Do you tend to relate to Jesus more like a person or more like a concept?
2. How can you tell when you're slipping from relationship into routine?
3. In what ways has religious activity ever replaced genuine intimacy with Christ in your life?

Prayer

Jesus, I don't want to just know about You—I want to know You. Draw me into deeper intimacy, and protect my heart from drifting toward empty religion. Amen.

DAY 4 — LIVING TO PLEASE GOD, NOT PEOPLE

Scripture Reference

Galatians 1:10

Devotional Thought

Paul faced a rumor in Galatia—that he softened the gospel to win popularity. His response was simple and bold: If he were trying to please people, he would not be a servant of Christ.

Paul's life proved it.
He had been rejected, beaten, stoned, imprisoned, and opposed everywhere he went.
People-pleasers don't get stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:1–20).
Paul lived with one compelling motivation: **God's approval, not man's applause.**

This is where many believers struggle. People-pleasing is subtle, often beginning in childhood—trying to please parents, teachers, friends, coaches, coworkers. Eventually it becomes a deeply engrained pattern:

"If others are happy with me, then I'm okay."

But following Jesus will inevitably put you in situations where you must choose between:

- What God wants
- What people expect

Between:

- Obedience
- Approval

Between:

- Faithfulness
- Fitting in

People-pleasing produces fear, exhaustion, and spiritual compromise.
God-pleasing produces freedom, courage, and spiritual strength.

Paul reminds us that the gospel sets us free not only from sin but also from the crushing weight of trying to earn everyone's approval. You were not saved by performance—and you are not sustained by it now.

The question Paul forces us to ask is this:

Whose approval do I really live for?

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you struggle most with people-pleasing?
2. How has seeking others' approval affected your spiritual confidence or obedience?
3. What would change in your life if God's approval became your primary focus?

Prayer

Father, free me from the need to please people. Give me courage to live for Your approval alone. Make me a servant of Christ—faithful, steady, and unafraid. Amen.

DAY 5 — WALKING IN GRACE: LETTING CHRIST LIVE THROUGH YOU

Scripture Reference

Galatians 2:16, Colossians 2:6

Devotional Thought

One of Paul's strongest messages in Galatians is this:
You cannot live the Christian life by human effort.
Not only is it difficult—it *is impossible*.

Just as you were **saved by grace through faith**, you are called to **walk by grace through faith**.
But here's where the drift happens. We receive Christ freely, then somewhere along the way we start trying to *maintain* our salvation through effort, rule-keeping, or spiritual performance.

Paul teaches the opposite.

You didn't work hard to get saved, and you don't work hard to stay saved.
You live the Christian life by letting **Christ live through you**.

The gospel is:

“Live **in** Jesus—and let Him live **through** you.”

Spiritual disciplines such as reading the Bible, praying, fasting, and serving are beautiful and important—but they are not the source of your salvation or your righteousness. They do not make you a Christian; they deepen your intimacy with Christ *because you already are one*.

When believers begin trusting in their performance instead of Christ's presence, the Christian life becomes:

- Heavy
- Draining
- Discouraging
- Rule-centered rather than relationship-centered

But when you walk by grace, something changes.

Your life becomes fueled by the strength of Christ rather than your own.

Your obedience flows from love, not pressure.

Your identity is rooted in what Jesus has done, not what you attempt.

The gospel frees you to stop striving and start abiding.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been relying on your own strength instead of Christ's power?
2. Do you tend to measure your spiritual “success” by your performance instead of your relationship with Jesus?
3. What would it look like today to walk in grace rather than self-effort?

Prayer

Jesus, live through me today. I surrender my efforts, my striving, and my attempts to prove myself. Teach me to walk in grace, trust Your power, and rest in Your finished work. Amen.