

## Galatians 6:1–10

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1. What does Paul mean by “overtaken in a fault”?
  - “If a man be overtaken in a fault...” Even though Paul speaks in generalities in this one verse, he has specified many possible faults and intimated several specific ones: biting, devouring, provocation, boasting, hatred, strife, jealousy, anger, disputes, dissensions, factions and envy.
  - “Ye which are spiritual...” The spiritual man is the man “led of the Spirit” whose manner of life is “in step with the Spirit” (5:18, 25). In this context he is the man who loves his neighbor and does not allow freedom in Christ to be an occasion for sin (*cf.* Jude 4; Romans 13:8–14).

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### 2. Who is to restore an overtaken brother? Why?

- “Considering thyself...” Not out of selfishness, but out of love (Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; 1 Timothy 1:5). The spiritual man is not haughty; he knows that he could be deceived and may have been (Titus 3:3). He knows that he could stumble, and may have, often (1 Peter 3:8).
- “Lest thou also be tempted....” If we expect mercy, we should show mercy (Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36). If we want kindness, we must be kind (Ephesians 4:32). If we desire to be admonished, we must be able to admonish (Romans 15:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:15). We are to serve one another, love one another and bear one another’s burdens.

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### 3. How are we to restore an overtaken brother?

- “Restore such an one...” To “restore” is literally to “equip, frame, repair or adjust”. Used of mending nets (Matthew 4:21) or framing the universe (Hebrews 11:3). It takes on ethical sense of completion or perfection (1 Thessalonians 3:10; Luke 6:40; 1 Peter 5:10).
- “In the spirit of meekness....” The spiritual man is to admonish and correct his stumbling brethren with gentleness (1 Corinthians 4:21; 2 Corinthians 10:1; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:25). There may well be a time for the “rod” (Titus 3:10) but first seek to gain your brother (Matthew 18:15).

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### 4. How is it possible to deceive oneself?

- “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing...” Does Paul mean the spiritual man or the one overtaken in the fault? It must be the latter. He has arrived in his circumstance through pride (Luke 1:51; 1 Timothy 1:4, 7, 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:2). The Judaizer was proud of himself, his flesh and his heritage (2 Corinthians 11:16–22; Philippians 3:4–6). However, all of these were nothing.
- “He deceiveth himself...” Self-delusion is a powerful thing. It will cast aside reason and revelation in order to believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11; 1 Timothy 4:1–2). The heart set on desire will have it (Galatians 5:16–17; 1 Corinthians 10:6; James 1:14–15; 2 Peter 2:10).

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### 5. How does one prove his own work?

- “But let every man prove his own work...” The works of faith (Ephesians 2:8–10), not the works of our own righteousness (Titus 3:5). Only these provide any ground for rejoicing (Galatians 6:14; Philippians 3:7–8). These works are “proven” when their character with respect to salvation is demonstrated (Galatians 5:3–6, 10).
- “Then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another...” The Judaizer was relying upon and boasting in the works of others (Galatians 6:12–14). However, all such boasting was but to fail (Galatians 5:4, 6; 6:16). However, the man whose deeds are in God has great joy (John 3:21).

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6. What is the difference between the burden of verse 2 and that of verse 5?

### Who Bears What Burden? (6:2, 5)

Shared with the Spiritual Man	The Burden Bearer	Every Man Alone
Restoration	The Result of Burden Bearing	Proof of the Character of Our Works
The Law of Christ Fulfilled Unto Everlasting Life	The Consequences of the Burden Borne	The Fruit of the Field Sown

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Bonus: How do we “communicate” with “him that teacheth in all good things?”

- “Let him that is taught in the word...” Contextually, the one taught is the one overtaken in a fault (Galatians 6:1).
- “Communicate...” There are times “communicate” signifies a monetary distribution (Romans 12:13; Philippians 4:15). More often, it means to share in another’s teaching or practice (Romans 15:27; I Timothy 5:22; 2 John 11). I just do not see money in this verse.
- “Unto him that teacheth in all good things...” Have fellowship in the good things taught. Paul instructs the brother who is overtaken in a fault to repent and “walk in the Spirit.”

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### 7. How do men attempt to mock God?

- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked...” Do not think that God will overlook sin (Proverbs 14:9; Psalms 94:7–9). This was the consequence of their arrogant pride that their circumcision, their descent, their covenant somehow merited favor with God despite their arrogant rebellion (Romans 2:1–11).
- “Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap...” The inviolable Law of the Harvest: You reap when you sow, you reap what you sow, and you reap more than you sow (Genesis 1:11–12; Job 4:8; Psalms 126:5; Proverbs 22:8; Ecclesiastes 11:4; Hosea 8:7; 10:12–13; Matthew 6:26; 2 Corinthians 9:6). Most sinners sow a bushel and pray for a crop failure!

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### 8. What will prevent growing weary in well-doing?

- “And let us not be weary in well doing...” The well-doing of the passage is the obedience of faith (Galatians 5:5–6). Christians are called to serve one another by love (5:13–14). However, opposition, criticism, wrangling, biting and devouring wears us down and out (5:15).
- “For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not...” However, if we focus on the goal (Philippians 3:8–15; *cf.* Galatians 6:15–17), we are compelled to run (Hebrews 10:35–39; 12:1–15). We have sown unto the Spirit and of the Spirit we will reap everlasting life (6:8).

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### 9. When will we reap this harvest?

- “For in due season we shall reap...” The sower must wait for the harvest, the early and the latter rains, after which God gives the increase (Genesis 8:22; Deuteronomy 11:14; Jeremiah 14:22; 1 Corinthians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 3:5; Mark 4:26–29; Revelation 14:15).
- “If we faint not...” The harvest of eternal life is conditional upon a walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:5–6, 13–14, 25, 6:2, 10, 16). This is a walk in which the world the world is crucified unto us, and we are crucified unto the world because we have been crucified with Christ (2;20; 6:14).

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### 10. What is the “good” we are to do?

- “As we have therefore opportunity...” This is not a local church, as a church, instruction. This is what the Spiritual Man is to do whenever he has opportunity or occasion (same word as “season” in v.9).
- “Let us do good unto all men...” The good of this passage may be done to saint or sinner. It is the fulfilling of the Law of Christ (Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:13–14).
- “Especially unto them who are of the household of faith...” We love our enemies and our brethren (1 Peter 1:22–23; Matthew 5:43–45). We teach truth to our enemies and our brethren (2 Corinthians 4:2; Ephesians 4:15, 24–25). We pray for our enemies and our brethren (Romans 12:14, 20).

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