

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Our “Spiritual” Responsibility

Jerry Fite

Paul writes, “Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

“Ye, who are spiritual” have a work to do. There is a brother or sister who has fallen into sin. They need to be restored. Will you answer the call with “Here am I?” Or, is this serious matter best left up to someone else?

Every Christian should be “spiritual.” But such is especially needed for this work of restoring one back to the Lord. It is “a spirit of gentleness” that is needed in such cases. The word “gentleness” corresponds to the fruit of the spirit, “kindness” in Galatians 5:22. This spirit is the graciousness found in the heart that does not want to inflict any more pain upon one that is already feeling sorrow over one’s sin. The spiritual one who needs to answer the call is therefore one who is manifesting the fruit of the fruit of the spirit in their life. Like all of the manifestations of the fruit of the spirit, the one

manifesting such fruit is a blessing to another.

The goal of the spiritual is to “restore” one who has been overtaken in a trespass. This word denotes, “mending” as the work James and John were doing with their “nets” (Mark 1:18). The Greeks would see this word used when one “set” a “broken bone.” What good is a net with holes in it or a broken bone out of place? The same is true about a soul who needs to be brought back to a place of usefulness in the Lord.

Restoring one starts with one “converting” the sinner from his error. James encourages the brother in this work with the following exhortation: “My brethren, if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). A Nathan pointing out David as the sinner is necessary to get people like David who have not yet admitted their sin to confess it (2 Samuel 12:1-13). You cannot turn or change your course, until you first admit that you are not walking the right way.

It appears in Galatians 6:1, that the fallen sinner has recognized his or sin and may have already passed from godly sorrow to true repentance (2 Cor. 7:10); but still needs the gentle or kind spirit to fully bring them back to usefulness. Paul instructed brethren to confirm their love to a fallen, penitent sinner by “forgiving” him (2 Corinthians 2:7-8). One needs confirming love in forgiveness to be fully restored. Gentleness or kindness found in the “spiritual” is at the forefront of forgiveness. “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:32).

The spiritual one is called upon at this point of restoration to not act “high minded” or “cutting” by saying “How could you do such a thing? I would never do something that sinful or stupid”; but gently in a forgiving spirit look “to thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” The spiritual is not only kind and gentle, but humble realizing that being overtaken in a trespass is only a false step away. Restoring one broken by sin is a responsibility of the spiritual. Are you ready to answer the call? A fallen brother or sister needs you!