

## RESTORING THE ERRING

{**Jesus** came to seek & to save the lost (Lk 19:10), but He also came to restore the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:24).}

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**Gal 6:1-5** – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 **Bear one another's burdens**, & so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, & then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, & not in another. 5 **For each one shall bear his own load.**

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### A. When Christians are not behaving as they should it is sometimes difficult to remember they are our “brethren.”

1. Oftentimes our first response is to give up on them as hopeless cases.
2. But by thinking in that way we can be just as wrong as they are in their misdeed.

### B. Verses 2 & 5, on the surface, seem contradictory.

1. In verses 3-5, Paul states that Christians should not be a boastful people; each one should examine his life & take responsibility for what he discovers about himself.
2. In verses 1-2, when our brother is not doing this, then we need to “restore” him.
3. The standard by which I am to judge one’s need to be restored is NOT my personal judgment, but the word of God (Gal 5:19-25).

## I. WHEN DOES ONE NEED RESTORING?

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6:1 – If a man is **overtaken in any trespass**...restore such a one.

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### A. When one is “**overtaken** in any trespass”

1. “To take before; detect, overtake, surprise.”

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Mark 14:8 – She has done what she could. *She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.*

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2. There are two possibilities that may occur when one is “overtaken”.

### One:

A person being “surprised” by a temptation gives in to the impulse to sin before he can think to offer resistance to it or consider the outcome of his actions.

In that case, he is “taken before” or “overtaken” before he thought to resist (cp. “katalambano” in 1Thess 5:4)

### Two:

A person may be “detected” in the very act of doing wrong before he could escape the outcome his wrongful deed.

He is caught red handed. {**Peter** was at Antioch of Syria is an example of both (Gal 6:12, 14).}

## WHEN DOES ONE NEED RESTORING?

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### B. When one is “overtaken in any trespass”.

1. “A false step, a misdeed, a sin” (cf. Heb 6:6).
2. For example, when we see a sign that says “No Trespassing,” & we go beyond that point, we take “a false step” onto another’s property.
3. Sometimes we can do that without realizing it, until someone brings it to our attention.
4. As this applies to a Christian, a trespass implies either ignorance or indifference to know or to follow God Word.

5. Paul suggests that when a Christian is overtaken in a trespass, he may or may not realize it, but he needs help – & the more help he receives from others the better for him.

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**1 Thess 5:14** – Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn those who are unruly**, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

**Heb 12:12-13** – Therefore **strengthen the hands which hang down, & the feeble knees**, 13 & make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

**Ezek 3:20** – Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness & commits iniquity, & I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; **because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin**, & his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but **his blood I will require at your hand**.

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[The actions that will help someone who is “overtaken in a trespass” are implied by the word “restore”.]

C. To “restore” someone means more than just to urge him or her to come back to church.

1. “To mend, make complete or whole.”

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**Matt 4:21** – Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, & John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,

**1 Thess 3:10** – night & day praying exceedingly that we may see your face & perfect what is lacking in your faith?

**1 Cor 1:10** – Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, & that there be no divisions among you, but that you be **perfectly joined together** in the same mind & in the same judgment.

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2. The word “restore” (katartizo (kat-ar-tid’-zo) implies the skill of the one restoring & the return to productivity & usefulness of the one who is restored.
3. There are several actions that do not help when someone is “overtaken in a trespass:”

**Gossip:** to reveal sensational facts, to spread rumors about them of an intimate nature.

**Critical:** to make a severe judgment, to present them in an unfavorable light.

**Gloat:** to find malicious satisfaction in their predicament.

**Indifferent:** to care nothing for their state.

**Reluctant:** for fear of losing their friendship.

**Condone:** to overlook their sin as a matter of little importance (trivial).

[The angels of Heaven rejoice when they observe the true restoration of a soul (Lk 15:10).]

## II. WHO MAY DO THE RESTORING?

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Gal 6:1 – ...*you who are spiritual* restore such a one

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A. Are we not ALL to be “*spiritual*” people? Would any one of us admit that we are not “*spiritual*”?

1. The word Paul used means, “*pertaining to the spirit of man.*”
2. You who understand the spiritual need & requirements of a man.
3. You who understand that a man is to “*live in the Spirit*” & “*walk in the Spirit*” & to be “*led by the Spirit*” (Gal 5:16, 18, 25), & to bear the “*fruit of the Spirit*” in his physical life (5:22-23).
4. You who understand that a man cannot do these things until he has “*crucified the flesh with its passions & desires*” (Gal 5:24).

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Gal 5:22-25 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions & desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

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5. The restoration of one overtaken in a trespass is a matter that requires spiritual maturity, wisdom, skill & insight into human nature.

- a. Paul was just such a man as he dealt with the church at Corinth.

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**1 Cor 3:1-3 – And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk & not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, & even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, & divisions among you, are you not carnal & behaving like mere men?**

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[**Restoring** one who is overtaken in a trespass requires the acute ability to know what to say & what not to say, but to say what is necessary.]

### III. HOW IS ONE TO BE RESTORED?

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**Gal 6:1 – ...you who are spiritual restore such a one in a *spirit of gentleness*, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**

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**A. A spirit of “gentleness” refers to one who is meekness & courteous.**

1. This is one who has self-restraint under the pressure to become angry & argumentative.

2. Gentleness is easier to grasp when we consider:

- a. The meekness & gentleness of Christ (Matt 10:29; 2 Cor 10:1).
- b. That we are His servants in the matter of restoration (2 Tim 2:24-26).
- c. That the offender is NOT our enemy (2 Thess 3:15).
- d. And One Other: ↓

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**B. A person that is “considering” himself:**

1. “Remembering that next time it might be one of you who is in the wrong” (Taylor).
2. “Look to yourself, each one of you: you may be tempted too” (NEB).

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1 Cor 10:12 – Therefore *let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*

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**CLOSING**

- A. We need to keep a sympathetic mind toward the erring children of God, because their state is worse than if they had never known the truth (2 Pet 2:20-22).
- B. When we participate in restoring them, & are successful, we will experience one of the deepest joys of being a Christian (Jas 5:19-20).