

Galatians 6:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Analysis

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Paul begins chapter 6 with pastoral instruction on church discipline. "Brethren" (adelphoi, ἀδελφοί)—fellow believers. "If a man be overtaken in a fault" (ean kai prolēmphthē anthrōpos en tini paraptōmati)—if someone is caught, surprised, overtaken in any transgression. Prolambanomai (προλαμβάνομαι) suggests being caught unexpectedly, overtaken before one realizes. Paraptōma (παράπτωμα) is a slip, false step, trespass—not habitual sin but stumbling.

"Ye which are spiritual" (hymeis hoi pneumatikoi, ὑμεῖς οἱ πνευματικοί)—you who are Spirit-led, walking in the Spirit (5:25). "Restore such an one" (katartizete ton toiouton, καταρτίζετε τὸν τοιοῦτον)—restore, mend, set right. Katartizō means to restore to original condition, like setting a broken bone or mending nets (Matthew 4:21). "In the spirit of meekness" (en pneumati praytētos)—with gentleness, humility. "Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (skopōn seauton, mē kai sy peirasthēs)—watch yourself carefully, lest you also be tempted. Restorative discipline requires humble self-awareness of one's own vulnerability to sin.

Historical Context

Church discipline was essential in early Christianity for maintaining community purity and helping straying members (Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5). Paul

prescribes gentle restoration, not harsh condemnation. The goal is restoration, not punishment. "Spiritual" people—those walking in the Spirit—have both wisdom and gentleness to restore fallen brothers. This contrasts with Pharisaic judgmentalism and legalistic harshness. Jesus modeled restorative discipline (John 8:1-11, 21:15-19). The church should neither ignore sin nor crush sinners, but restore gently with awareness of shared vulnerability.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you balance confronting sin in others with maintaining 'the spirit of meekness' and self-awareness of your own temptation?
2. What's the difference between restorative discipline (setting broken bones) and punitive judgment (crushing the fallen)?
3. How does walking in the Spirit (being 'spiritual') equip you for gentle restoration of those overtaken in faults?

Interlinear Text

Ἀδελφοί	ἐὰν	καὶ	προληφθῇ	ἄνθρωπος	ἐν	τινι
Brethren	if	also	be overtaken	a man	in	a
G80	G1437	G2532	G4301	G444	G1722	G5100
παραπτώματι	ὕμεῖς	τὸν	πνευματικοὶ	καταρτίζετε	τὸν	
fault	ye	which	are spiritual	restore	which	
G3900	G5210	G3588	G4152	G2675	G3588	
τοιοῦτον	ἐν	πνεύματι	πραότητος,	σκοπῶν	σεαυτόν	μὴ
such an one	in	the spirit	of meekness	considering	thyself	lest
G5108	G1722	G4151	G4236	G4648	G4572	G3361
καὶ	σὺ	πειρασθῆς				
also	thou	be tempted				
G2532	G4771	G3985				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 15:1 (Parallel theme): We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Thessalonians 3:15 (Parallel theme): Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

2 Timothy 2:25 (Parallel theme): In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

1 John 5:16 (Parallel theme): If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

2 Corinthians 2:7 (Parallel theme): So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.

Hebrews 12:13 (Parallel theme): And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

1 Peter 3:15 (Parallel theme): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Romans 14:1 (Parallel theme): Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

Ezekiel 34:16 (Parallel theme): I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org