

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will first explain how to have a quiet time. Then we will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions.

Today's topic is: A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM GALATIANS 4-6.

(S)      **POINT 1. HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME AND SHARE**

Have a time of fellowship with God or quiet time every day of the week from one of the seven assigned Bible passages. An easy quiet time method is called "The favourite truth" method. It has 5 steps.

Step 1. Pray and ask God to speak to you.

Step 2. Read one of the seven assigned passages.

Step 3. Choose your favourite truth. It is the truth, verse or passage through which God is speaking to you, stimulating your thinking or touching your heart.

Step 4. Meditate on your favourite truth. Meditate by doing the following four things. First. *Think* about the meaning of words. Second. *Ask* God what he intends to say to you. Third. *Relate* your favourite truth to your life by making a practical application. Fourth. *Write* the most important thoughts of your meditation in a notebook so that you may share them with others.

Step 5. Pray your favourite truth for yourself. Then pray your favourite truth for someone in your family. Then pray your favourite truth for someone nearby. And finally, pray your favourite truth for someone far away. When you meet together with one friend or with other Christians in a house fellowship or discipleship group, take turns to share the meditation of one of your quiet times. You may also try to answer some questions from the assigned passages.

(T)      **POINT 2. SHARING FROM GALATIANS 4-6**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Galatians 4-6. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

**Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 4.**

We want to share from Galatians 4:1-20 about the slaves of the wrong god and the free people of the right God.

First. The slaves of the wrong god.

Paul says that when the Galatians did not yet know the God of the Bible, they were slaves of the wrong god. They either served idols or they served a god who ruled people by the law. Such a god was by nature not god at all (4:8). The idols of course are dead, because they are man-made gods. But a god that rules people through the law is also non-existent! People, who think that with their own effort they must climb up to god by way of the ladder of many laws, believe in a god that does not exist. Such a god would be a god without any people, because no one would be able to keep all the laws. And a god without people is not god at all! Paul reminds the Galatians that in their former days they served dead idols. Now he rebukes the Galatians for turning to a god of laws. Paul says that such gods do not exist. The Galatians not only obeyed the laws of the religions of idols, but also the laws of the religion of the Jews. The Galatians observed special days and months and seasons and years and were pressed to get physically circumcised. Paul calls all these religious laws: "Weak and miserable principles", because they had no power to save or change people and they only made people more and more miserable (4:9)!

(S)      Second. The free people of the right God.

The Galatians had fallen victim to the teachings of the Judaizers who had enforced the Jewish ceremonial law on them. Paul warns the Christians in Galatia that false apostles had come to them to alienate them from the true apostles. While the false apostles wanted the people to be zealous for them and their brand of religion that promoted hundreds of laws, the true apostles wanted the people to become zealous for Jesus Christ (4:17). The false apostles turned people into slaves of the law. But the true apostles pointed to Jesus Christ who set people free from their slavery to sin and to the law. Paul says that all true apostles worked hard so that the image of Jesus Christ would be formed in them (4:19).

The God of the Bible is the only real God. Only the God of the Bible exists and is alive! The God of the Bible knows that there is not one single person that can keep the law or that actually keeps the law. The God of the Bible knows that

the way of keeping the law will not save or justify one single person on earth! Therefore, when the right time had come, the God of the Bible took on the human nature in Jesus Christ and entered his creation and our history, was born as Jesus Christ among people who were slaves of the law (4:1-4). By dying on the cross and by shedding his blood, Jesus Christ redeemed these slaves and set them free from sin and the law. Instead of hundreds of laws that pressed hard *on the shoulders* of these slaves, Jesus Christ came to live *in their hearts* through his Spirit and in this way set them free to live holy and righteous lives (4:1-7).

(T) We want to share from Galatians 4:21-31 about Hagar and Sarah who represent two covenants.

First. Hagar is a slave woman and represents the covenant of the law.

God had promised to Abraham that he would bless all the nations in the world through his “Seed” that would come from his barren old wife, Sarah. Abraham believed God and God counted his faith as righteousness. However, Sarah remained barren and about 10 years later she gave her slave, Hagar, to produce a son for her in the ordinary way with Abraham. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael. But God said to Abraham that the way of man is not the right way. Only the way of God is the right way. Ishmael was the result of human effort and would not be the heir. In their old age, Abraham and Sarah would give birth to a son, Isaac, and he would become the heir.

Paul says that Hagar *figuratively represents the present city of Jerusalem in Israel and the natural nation of Israel*, who with all her people are in slavery to the law. He says that the earthly Jerusalem and her children are in slavery. God had never given the promise to bless all the nations to Hagar. God had also not given the promise to bless all the nations through the Old Testament law. The earthly Jerusalem has no value for God. And the natural nation of Israel with all her children are still slaves in God’s eyes. The slave woman, Hagar, represents the covenant of the law, which can only condemn people to be guilty in God’s eyes. The law can never set people free from their slavery to sin.

(S) Second. Sarah is a free woman and represents the covenant of God’s promise.

God had promised to bless all the nations through the “Seed” that would be born from Abraham and Sarah. Twenty five years after God made his promise to Abraham and fourteen years after Ishmael was born, Sarah gave birth to Isaac. God kept his promise. Isaac was the result of God’s promise and he would be the heir. The promised “Seed” would be born from Isaac’s descendants.

Paul says that Sarah *figuratively represents the heavenly city of Jerusalem and the spiritual nation of God*, who with all her people are set free from sin and the law. He says that the heavenly Jerusalem is a symbol of all the people during the Old Testament period who believed in the Messiah and all the people during the New Testament period who believed in Jesus Christ. The heavenly Jerusalem is the “mother” of all Christians. All the believers, who have already died, and all believers, who are still living, are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem (cf. Heb 11:8-16; 12:22-24). The free woman, Sarah, represents the covenant of God’s promise, which freely offers God’s grace to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. God’s promise will always set people free from their slavery to sin and the law.

### Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 5.

(T) We want to share from Galatians 5:1-15 about the people who are still trying today to be justified by keeping the law.

First. The obligation to keep the whole law.

Those people, who are still trying to be justified by keeping the law, are under God’s obligation to keep the law 100% perfectly. People, who are trying to be justified by keeping the law, are under God’s obligation to obey the whole law (5:3). People who let themselves be physically circumcised are alienated from Christ (5:4). The God of the Bible is 100% holy and righteous and he will never be satisfied to justify people, who are only 99% righteous! Although many people keep certain of God’s laws, no one in the world and no one in history, except Jesus Christ, has kept God’s law 100%! Therefore, people who want to be justified by obeying the law will NEVER be justified by God, because NO ONE has obeyed the law perfectly! All the religious people in the world, who try to obey many religious laws, are lost in God’s eyes. They are lost, because they try to save themselves instead of throwing themselves on the mercy and grace of God and allow God to save them. They are lost because all the laws they keep will not make up for *the one law they break*. James 2:10-11 says, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it”. Because the God of the Bible, who said, “Do not commit adultery”, also said, “Do not murder”. If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. In the eyes of the God of the Bible, breaking one of his laws is as bad as breaking all his laws. God does not count the number of transgressions against his law, but looks at the heart that rebelled against him, the Lawgiver, even if that heart only rebelled once!

(S) Second. The privilege of receiving God’s righteousness for 100%.

Galatians 5:5 says, “By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope”. Jesus Christ is the only One in history that has obeyed God’s law 100%. Jesus Christ is the only One who is 100% holy and 100% righteous. Jesus Christ lived a perfect and sinless life on earth. Jesus Christ also died as a punishment for 100% of the

sins of the people who believe in him. No one in the world can gain righteousness for himself on earth by keeping the religious laws. So unless God has another plan of salvation, all people in the world will go to hell. But God has another plan of salvation! Jesus Christ is the only One who fulfilled all God's holy and righteous requirements. Therefore if any person accepts Jesus Christ by faith into his heart and life, God counts the 100% righteousness of Jesus Christ also as the 100% righteousness of the believer! Every person who believes in Jesus Christ is saved and completely justified, no matter what his former religion was and no matter how wicked he has lived in the past. Thus, God's righteousness is *given by grace and accepted through faith. No man can earn his own righteousness, but every man can accept the righteousness of Jesus Christ.*

There are no scales in heaven on which God is going to weigh your so-called good works and evil works. There is only the Living God in heaven and he will look at your heart, whether you are still trying to save and justify yourself, or whether you trust in him to save and justify you through Jesus Christ. In the Last Judgement Day, God will not weigh your deeds on scales, but he will look only for one thing: whether you have received Jesus Christ into your heart and life or not! 1 John 5:11-12 says, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who *has the Son* has life; he who *does not have the Son of God* does not have life".

The person who tries to be justified by the law is never free. He is a slave of his sinful nature and a slave of the law. He is never free to do what God wants him to do. But the person who is justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ is always free to do what God wants him to do. However, he should not misuse his freedom to indulge in the sinful nature!

(T) We want to share from Galatians 5:16-26 about living life without the Holy Spirit or with the Holy Spirit.

First. Living life without the Holy Spirit.

The apostle Paul says that there are only two kinds of people: the people who live their lives *without* the Holy Spirit and those people who live their lives *with* the Holy Spirit. People who live their lives without the Holy Spirit have a sinful nature that makes them a slave of sin. The acts of the sinful nature are all kinds of sexual immorality, undisciplined eating and drinking, worshipping money, power and fame, hatred, fits of rage, jealousy and selfish ambition. People who do such things will never inherit the kingdom of God (5:19-21).

(S) Second. Living life with the Holy Spirit.

Every person who has been justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ has the responsibility to live his life in complete dependence on the Spirit of Jesus Christ in his heart and body (5:16). He will quickly find out that the desires of the old sinful nature oppose the desires of the Holy Spirit in him and that he is constantly engaged in a spiritual battle (5:17). The Holy Spirit hates sin and sin hates the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus Christ will always oppose sin in every form. The fact that you and I experience this spiritual battle in us is an assurance that we have been born again and that God is in the process of sanctifying us! You and I must put to death the sinful acts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Every born-again Christian is no longer "under the law". A Christian no longer tries to be saved or justified by keeping the law. That is why he also does not lead a life of continuous defeat and slavery to one or another sin. He is no longer under the curse or condemnation of the law. Of course, a Christian always remains under the moral law, but not in the sense that he tries to be justified by them, but only in the sense that they show him the way to live as a Christian.

A Christian that lives his life with the Holy Spirit in his heart and body bears the fruit of the Spirit. The different manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian are spiritual characteristics like love, joy and peace; social virtues like patience, kindness and goodness; and virtues in three relationships: faithfulness towards God; gentleness towards other people and self-control towards himself. There is no law against people who bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Christians do not continually focus on eliminating the acts of the sinful nature. They rather focus on continually bearing the fruit of the Spirit!

Sharing quiet times from Galatians chapter 6.

(T) We want to share from Galatians 6:2 and 5 about when to carry another person's burden and when to carry your own load.

First. Christians should carry other people's burdens.

Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry one another's burdens". These words are not meant passively in the sense of: "*Passively bear up under* the difficulties of other people", but rather actively in the sense of: "*Actively put your shoulder under* the difficulties of other people *and help them carry* these burdens". The burdens that we Christians should help carry are things like *their temptations, their troubles, their persecutions, their tragedies, their crises and their losses.*

In this context we Christians should help carry the spiritual weaknesses and temptations of our fellow-Christians. Look at the example of Jesus Christ, how he treated a woman with a bad reputation in Luke 7; a repentant criminal in Luke

23; a repentant Peter after he had denied Jesus three times in John 21; a sinful invalid in John 5; and a woman caught in the act of adultery in John 8. Look at the way the father received his rebellious son that had wasted his inheritance on bad friends and then returned with remorse in Luke 15. These examples show us how we should actively carry the burdens of our fellow Christians. Only in this way do we love people as Jesus Christ loves us!

(S) Second. Christians should carry their own load.

Galatians 6:5 says, "Each one should carry his own load". The word 'load' is also used to describe the load that a ship must carry (Act 27:10). It is the load of the 613 laws, which the Pharisees put on the shoulders of other the Jews. The Pharisees expected the Jews to carry this unreasonable heavy load, while they themselves did not touch them (Mt 23:4). It is the load of the yoke, which Jesus puts on the shoulders of his followers to carry. That yoke is light and easy to carry (Mt 11:30). The word 'load' therefore means something that each person must carry himself and which he may not unload on other people! Christians must carry the responsibility for *their own thoughts, feelings, attitudes, motives, convictions, needs, choices, decisions and values*. They must carry the responsibility for their own behaviour and what they do with their own time, possessions, talents, body and works. No one except the Christian himself is responsible for his own 'load'. Every Christian remains responsible for who he is and what he does. Personal responsibility is not transferable! The works of Christians cannot and will not save them. But their works will be judged. They will receive their reward according to their works (1 Cor 3:11-15).

(T) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Divide Ephesians 1-3 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and build Christ's Church" and Internet on [www.dota.net](http://www.dota.net)

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".