*What does it mean to live a life characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, and the other "fruits of the Spirit?" (**Gal 5:22,23**)*

(I) Restoring and Bearing (1-5)

*Any of the "works of the flesh" – (**Gal 5:19-21**)*

How does the Spirit-led person react?
a. Neglect?
b. Exposure? (vv. 4,5)
c. **Restoration?** (v. 1)

[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any **transgression**, you who are spiritual should **restore** him in a spirit of **gentleness**. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Matt 18:15-17
II Tim 2:24-26
James 5:19,20

καταρτίζω – katartizô
-to mend or repair
-lit. to set a fractured bone

Not just a warning, but a motivation for humility (v. 3)

Matt 22:34-40
Matt 25:31-46
John 13:31-35
Rom 15:1
Phi 2:1-11

[2] **Bear** one another's **burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

βάρος – baros
-heavy burdens.
-more than a man should carry

Errors that could keep us from fulfilling our responsibilities:

[3] For if anyone thinks he is something, **when he is nothing**, he deceives himself.

Rom 12:3
I Cor 10:12
I John 1:5-6

[4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.

Prov 18:6-8
Luke 18:9-14
II Cor 10:12
I Tim 5:13

Rom 14:10-12
II Cor 5:6-10
Rev 20:11-15

[5] For each will have to bear his own **load**.

φορτίον – phortion
-load or pack

(II) Sowing and Reaping (6-10)

[6] One who is taught the word must share all **good things** with the one who teaches.

I Cor 9:11-14
I Tim 5:17,18
Luke 10:7

[7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever **one sows**, that will **he also reap**.

***Axiom** –Harvest Imagery*

What are the *seeds* that we can sow?
Few things disclose the priorities of our heart more than the use of our time and money (i.e material blessings).

***II Cor 9 –** Those who sow generously, will "be made rich in every way" – so they can continue to be generous "on every occasion!"*

Proverbs 22:8

[8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap **corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap **eternal life**.

Heb 10:36
Rev 2:10

[9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

[10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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Own Hand

*Compare to

-1Co 16:21
-Col 4:18
-2Th 3:17

*Likely marks a transition from a scribe to Paul directly writing.

*Provides a chance for Paul to re-emphasize the main points from the letter.

*"Large Letters" could be an indication of poor eyesight (**Gal 4:15; 2Co 12:7**) or just less formal writing than the scribe.

[11]See with what ***large letters*** I am writing to you with my ***own hand***.

[12]It is those who want to make a ***good showing in the flesh*** who would force you to be circumcised, and only in order that ***they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ***. ***<- Gal 4:17***

Why did the legalizers persist in their error?
(1) To avoid persecution (**v.12**)
(2) To boast in winning the Galatians (**v.13**)

[13]For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may ***boast in your flesh***.

Boasting
-Paul was once driven by "a good showing in the flesh." (**Phil 3:3-8**)
-Rom 3:27
-Gal 6:14
-1Co 1:31

[14]But far be it from me to ***boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ***, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

[15]For ***neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision***, but a **new creation**. ***<- Gal 5:6***
1Co 7:19
2Co 5:17

(1) Peace and mercy of God are only given to those who follow this Gospel.
(2) All who believe in this Gospel are obligated to continue walking in it.
(3) Those who walk with the Gospel are the true Israel of God.

[16]And as for all who ***walk by this rule***, ***peace and mercy*** be upon them, and upon the ***Israel of God***.

[17]From now on ***let no one cause me trouble***, for I bear on my body the ***marks of Jesus***.

Marks of Jesus
-2Co 6:4-6; 11:23-30
-Contrast with the meaningless mark of circumcision the legalizers are pushing on the Galatians.

[18]The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

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Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)
[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load. [6] One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. [7] Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

*What does it mean to live a life characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, and the other "fruits of the Spirit?" (**Gal 5:22, 23**)*

"If we walked by the Spirit we would love one another more, and if we loved one another more we would bear one another's burdens, and if we bore one another's burdens we would not shrink form seeking to restore a brother who has fallen into sin. Further, if we obeyed this apostolic instruction as we should, much unkind gossip would be avoided, more serious backsliding prevented, the good of the Church advanced, and the name of Christ glorified."
-Stott – The Expositor's Commentary

I. Bearing and Restoring

Galatians 6:1-15 (ESV)
[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load.

First instruction comes in v. 2 – Bear One Another's Burdens

Galatians 6:2 (ESV)
[2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- **Burdens** - Greek NASB Number: 922 - **Greek Word:** βάρος

- **Transliterated Word:** ***baros*** - **Root:** from *926;*

- **Definition:** weight:-- *-heavy burdens -more than a man should carry*

John 13:31-35 (ESV)
31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ***34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*** 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Philippians 2:1-4 (ESV)
1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Illustration 1: *Naturalists say that the stork, having most tenderly fed its young, will sail under them when they first attempt to fly, and, if they begin to fall, will bear them up and support them and that, when one stork is wounded by the sportsman, the able ones gather about it, put their wings under it, and try to carry it away. These instincts in the bird teach us the lesson of helpfulness. We should come up close to those who are in any way overburdened or weak or faint, and putting our own strength underneath them, help them along; and when another fellow-being is wounded or crushed, whether by sorrow or by sin, it is our duty to gather about him, and try to lift him up, and save him. There is scarcely a limit to our possibilities of helpfulness in these ways. -- Miller. - By J. Wilbur Chapan, "Present Day Parables."*

Illustration 2: *Bearing Burdens - He's Not Heavy, He's My Brother*
Two times in the last month, under completely different circumstances, I've had people say to me "I don't want to be a burden." In both cases the statement was made by another Christian. Both times my reply was: "How could you be a burden? You're part of my family. This is just what we do for each other."

We always talk about "brothers" and "sisters" in Christ, but I don't think we often stop to really think about what it means that we are family.

I remember hearing a story about two brothers who were walking one day, and the younger one became tired, so he asked his older brother to carry him. The older boy

scooped his brother up in his arms and began to carry him. As he walked, a neighbor chuckled and said, "Wow. He must be heavy."

And the older boy replied: "He's not heavy, he's my brother!"

It's a cute story, but let's be realistic - the younger boy would have weighed exactly the same if he hadn't been brother to the other boy. And yet, because he is family, the load seems much lighter.

You can see the same truth in your own life. Think about everything your parents gave up for you. The freedom of activity they gave up the moment you were born. The sleepless nights (my parents tell me I used to wake them up with my giggling in the middle of the night) All the money spent on your food, clothing, medical bills...The time spent driving you from place to place, going to your sporting events, concerts and school plays. And then when you were a teenager, the sleepless nights started all over again...

Okay? You've got all that in your mind, right? Now go to your parents and say to them, "I'm sorry I was such a burden to you..."

And if they're anything like my parents, they'll look at you like you've got a third ear sprouting out of the middle of your forehead, and they'll say, "Burden? You weren't a burden!"

Well, yes, you were. But because of their great love for you, they don't see you that way. Because you are family.

Now think about your spiritual family. The people you call your brothers and sisters in Christ. Do you really treat them as brothers and sisters? Or are they simply your burden you have to bear? If a physical family (born of corruptible seed, as I Peter 1:23 says) bears one another's burdens, how much more should we, who share an imperishable, incorruptible family tree, bear one another's burdens.

No wonder Galatians 6:2 tells us to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ!" It is one of the most simple and obvious responsibilities - and joys - of family life!

http://www.biblical-illuminations.com/2006_Feb/bearing_burdens.asp

Specific example of this how to carry out this instruction is found in v. 1 - Restoring a Fallen Brother

Galatians 6:1 (ESV)
[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

*"Transgression" - Any of the "works of the flesh" – (**Gal 5:19-21**)*

*"Spiritual" – Demonstrates the "fruits of the Spirit" – (**Gal 5:22, 33**)*

How does the Spirit-led person react toward a fallen brother?
a. Neglect?
b. Exposure? (vv. 4,5) – Through gossiping – trying to lift up ourselves
c. **Restoration?** (v. 1)

- **Restore -** Greek NASB Number: 2675 **- Greek Word:** καταρτίζω
- **Transliterated Word:** katartizô - Root: from 2596 and κάτοπτρον artizô (to get ready, prepare);
- **Definition:** to complete, prepare:-- -to mend or repair -lit. to set a fractured bone

Matthew 18:15-20 (ESV)
[15] "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. [16] But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [17] If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. [18] Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. [19] Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. [20] For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

2 Timothy 2:22-26 (ESV)
[22] So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. [23] Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. [24] And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ***[25] correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance***

leading to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

James 5:19-20 (ESV)
[19] My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, [20] let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Avoiding the barriers to fulfilling the obligation of bearing one another's burdens:

a. Having Humility because of our own Sin

Galatians 6:1-3 (ESV)
[1] Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. ***Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.*** [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ***[3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.***

Romans 12:3-8 (ESV)
[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. [6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (ESV)
[1] I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, [2] and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, [3] and all ate the same spiritual food, [4] and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. [5] Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. [6] Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. [7] Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." [8] We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. [9] We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, [10] nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. [11] Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. [12] ***Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.***

[13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

b. Not Comparing Ourselves to Others

Galatians 6:4-5
[4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load.

Illustration: *A country preacher confronted one of the members who had not been in church on Sunday. "I had haying to do," the farmer explained. "It was over in the back field where no one could see me working on Sunday." "But God saw you," the preacher protested. "I know that, but He's not as gossipy as the people around here!"*

Proverbs 18:6-8 (ESV)
[6] A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. [7] A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. [8] The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)
[9] He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: [10] "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, ***I thank you that I am not like other men***, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' [13] But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

We each have to bear our own load in Judgment

- NASB Number: 5413 - **Greek Word:** φορτίον
- **Transliterated Word:** ***phortion*** - **Root:** dim. of *5414 (load, cargo);*
- **Definition:** from *5342; a burden:-- -load or pack*

Romans 14:10-12 (ESV)
[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; [11] for it is written, "As I

live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."
12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (ESV)
6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we
are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good
courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So
whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ***10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.***

II. Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:6-10 (ESV)
6 One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. 7 Do
not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For
the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who
sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of
doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have
opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the
household of faith.

Second instruction comes in v. 7 – Whatever One Sows, That Will He Also Reap

Galatians 6:7
7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Illustration: Supreme Court Justice Horace Gray once informed a man who had appeared before him in a lower court and had escaped conviction on a technicality, "I know that you are guilty and you know it, and I wish you to remember that one day you will stand before a better and wiser Judge, and that there you will be dealt with according to justice and not according to law." Surprised while burgling a house in Antwerp, Belgium, the thief fled out the back door, clambered over a nine-foot wall, dropped down the other side, and found himself in the city prison.

Oops: The Book of Blunders, 1980.

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 (ESV)
1 Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, 2 for I
know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying
that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. 3
But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove vain in this
matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. 4 Otherwise, if some

Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. [5] So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. [6] *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* [7] *Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* [8] *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.* [9] *As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."* [10] *He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.* [11] *You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.* [12] For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. [13] By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, [14] while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. [15] Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Those who sow generously, will "be made rich in every way" - so they can continue to be generous "on every occasion!"

Proverbs 22:8-9 (ESV)
[8] Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail. [9] Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

God Cannot Be Fooled!

What are the *seeds* that we can sow?
Few things disclose the priorities of our heart more than the use of our time and money (i.e material blessings).

Specific example of this how to carry out this instruction is found in v. 6 - Sharing "Good Things" with those who Teach the Word

Galatians 6:6 (ESV)
[6] One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.

1 Corinthians 9:8-18 (ESV)
[8] Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? [9] For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? [10] Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was

written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. [11] If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? [12] If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. [13] Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? [14] In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. [15] But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. [16] For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! [17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. [18] What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 (ESV)
[17] Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. [18] For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Luke 10:1-12 (ESV)
[1] After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. [2] And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. [3] Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. [4] Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. [5] Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' [6] And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. [7] And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. [8] Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. [9] Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' [10] But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, [11] 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' [12] I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Don't Grow Weary of Doing Good – We Will Reap

Galatians 6:8-10
[8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ***[9] And let us not grow weary***

of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. [10] So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (ESV)
[35] Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. [36] For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Revelation 2:8-11 (ESV)
[8] "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. [9] " 'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [10] Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. [11] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

Own Hand

1 Corinthians 16:21 (ESV)
[21] I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

Colossians 4:18 (ESV)
[18] I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:17 (ESV)
[17] I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write.

Large Letters

Galatians 4:15 (ESV)
[15] What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me.

2 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)
[7] So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

Good Showing in the Flesh

Galatians 4:17 (ESV)
17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them.

Boasting

Philippians 3:3–8 (ESV)
3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Romans 3:27 (ESV)
27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Galatians 6:14 (ESV)
14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1 Corinthians 1:31 (ESV)
31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Circumcision / New Creation

Galatians 5:6 (ESV)
6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

1 Corinthians 7:19 (ESV)
19 For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)
17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Marks of Jesus

2 Corinthians 6:4–6 (ESV)
4 but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in
afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless
nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love;

2 Corinthians 11:23–30 (ESV)
23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far
greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.
24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times
I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a
day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from
robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger
in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship,
through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and
exposure. 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my
anxiety for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall,
and I am not indignant?
30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.