

Word of Life Christian Learning Center

Sermon NOTES

Count it All Joy, Part 3

James 1:1-4

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Exegesis – James 1:1-4

James 1:2

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

- **Consider** - The meaning is "to reckon as," "to deem as [to keep in mind as a conviction]," or "to regard as," "to view as..."

Note: Some other ways to translate, the phrase, "**Count** it all joy..."

What are we considering all joy?

The outcome, what the trial produces in us, the result of, the benefit.

What is the text saying?

"You should rejoice greatly when..., " **you encounter various trials.....**

"Consider yourselves fortunate, when..." **when you encounter various trials.....**

"Understand that it is beneficial for you..., " **when you encounter various trials.....**

"Understand that it is a great advantage for you..., " **when you encounter various trials.....**

"You can feel great satisfaction...." **when you encounter various trials.....**

THE REASON WE CAN DO ALL OF THE ABOVE IS BECAUSE WE ARE TO LOOK AHEAD TO THE BENEFIT...

We are to look forward...

CONSIDERING, RECKONING IT, DEEMING IT ALL JOY is a matter of WILL, not of FEELINGS.

LOOK THE APOSTLE PAUL'S EXAMPLE IN....

Philippians 1:18

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that **I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,...**

And because God commands it, we are able to (have the ability) obey with the power of the Holy Ghost!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The more we rejoice in our testings, the more we realize that they are NOT liabilities but rather privileges, i.e. they (trials of various kinds) are beneficial.

So what does Scripture mean about joy and rejoicing?

Definition: joy

Joy is the deep-down sense of well-being [comfort, security, safety] **that abides** [lives in, takes up residence in, dwells in, settled in] **in the heart** [the inner man, the core] **of the person who knows** [with deep and abiding settled assurance and absolute confidence, that] **all is well between himself and the Lord.**

*"Now I have always believed that the measure of a person's **spiritual character**, the measure of their **spiritual strength**, and the measure of their **spiritual maturity** is what it takes to **steal their joy**.*

*At whatever point your **joy breaks down**, that's the **level of your spiritual strength**."*

You can find out how **mature you are**, how **Spirit-controlled** you are, how **spiritually virtuous** you are by finding the **breaking point where joy is lost** and **bitterness** and **negativism, critical spirit, sullenness** begins to creep in and take over your life.

The **measure of your joy** is how you **react** NOT TO THINGS the way you'd LIKE them to be but to things the way you WOULDN'T LIKE them to be.

Remember, joy is a fruit of the spirit!

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Joy/Rejoicing should be the **dominant characteristic** of all believers, but this trait is rarely seen in God's people.

Since we have no joy/rejoicing (i.e. Lack deep-seated sense of wellbeing, not looking forward to the benefit of the trial promised in God's word) it is no small wonder that we struggle so mightily with temptations, tests, trials, sufferings that we encounter throughout our lives.

Let's go back to verse 1 of James chapter 1...

James 1:1

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings rejoice, be glad, be cheerful.
2 Consider it all joy i.e. consider it a cause or an occasion of joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

TURN OVER TO...

1 Peter 1:6-8

6 In this you **greatly rejoice** present, indicative, even though now **for a little while** when compared to eternity **if necessary**, you have been **distressed by various trials**,

SKIP TO VERSE EIGHT

8 and though you **have not seen Him**, you love Him, and though you **do not see Him now**, but **believe in Him**, you **greatly rejoice** present, indicative with **joy inexpressible and full of glory**,

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Is that a description of you?

Are you basically marked by great joy.....joy that is inexpressible or unspeakable and full of glory?

BACK TO 1 Peter 1:8

8 and though you **have not seen Him**, you love Him, and though you **do not see Him now**, but **believe in Him**, you **greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory**,

The Greek word “unspeakable or inexpressible” means a joy that is beyond words, so joyful that you can’t find words.

"joy too great for words";
 "joy which is beyond words to tell"
 "unspeakable").

It also implies that you can’t find **thoughts** or you could put them to words.

WOULD IT BE SAFE TO SAY THAT THIS IS A JOY THAT PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING?

It is a joy, he says, that’s “**full of glory.**” In other words, **a glorified joy** that is related to loving and placing our faith in a glorified savior.

REMEMBER, JOY IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AND HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US BY GOD

Ecclesiastes 2:26

26 For to a person who is **good in His sight** who is this? **He has given** wisdom and knowledge **and joy**, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind.

Psalms 4:7

7 **You** have put **gladness in my heart**,
 More than when their grain and new wine abound.

Psalms 21:6

6 For **You** make him most blessed forever;
You make him **joyful with gladness** in Your presence.

Psalms 97:11

11 Light is sown like seed **for the righteous**
And **gladness** for the **upright in heart**.

WHO DOES THE SOWING?

Since god has given us joy, and enabled us to be glad, no wonder he command us to rejoice!

Psalms 68:3

3 But let the righteous **be glad**; let them **exult** before God;
Yes, let them **rejoice with gladness**.

Matthew 5:11-12

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and **falsely** say all kinds of evil against you **because of Me**.

12 "**Rejoice** be cheerful and **be glad** exceedingly so; leap for joy, for your **reward in heaven** is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6:23

23 "**Rejoice/be glad** in that day and **leap for joy**, for behold, your reward is **great in heaven**. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

Luke 10:20

20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.**"

Philippians 4:4

4 **Rejoice** in the Lord **always**; again I will say, **rejoice!**

1 Thessalonians 5:16

16 **Rejoice** always;

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you **share the sufferings of Christ**, **keep on rejoicing** present, active imperative, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may **rejoice with exultation**.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID...

"Based on the biblical teaching, I would go so far as to say that it is the Christian's duty, his moral obligation, to be joyful.

*That means that the **failure of a Christian to be joyful is a sin**, that unhappiness and a lack of joy are, in a certain way, manifestations of the flesh."*

SOMEONE ONCE SAID...

"There should be no point in the life of a believer where joy is forfeited to sullenness, bitterness, negativism because of some things that aren't the way we'd like them to be.

There's only one justification for the loss of joy, and that is sin.

And when you have fallen into sin, you will need to cry out with the psalmist, "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation." PS 51:12

But nothing short of sin should steal our joy, certainly not circumstances.

And yet typically...for everyone - a sudden change in conditions, a sudden change in circumstances in our lives, great difficulties - confusion, trials, hard times, attacks, disagreements, unfulfilled ambitions, unmet desires, conflicts, strained relationships, unrealistic expectations unmet - all of these things can throw us off balance and joy are forfeited and bitterness takes its place."

Does this identify you?

Is that a description of you?

Are you someone who is unhappy or do you or are you one who GREATLY REJOICES?

Do you find your joy so overpowering that you can't even find thoughts or words to express your joy?

Further expounding on the phrase of **"joy that is full of glory"** or **glorified joy** let's take a look at HOW TO WALK IN GLORIFIED JOY!

Luke 1:46-47

46 And Mary said:

"My soul **exalts** the Lord,

47 And my spirit has **rejoiced** in God **my Savior**.

This is where your joy needs to be....in God **our Savior**.

That's **joy full of glory**...that's **glorified joy**.....a joy that reflects heavenly/eternal realities

If you **count your blessings** and **continually focus** on all **the heavenly promises/eternal realities** that are yours, you will find that **joy will dominate your heart**.

...the highest bliss this side of heaven is the ability to enjoy all the blessings of salvation..

At the root of that [our joy] is **knowing the triune God** (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and the **realities** of our **eternal reward!!!!**

"All saints shall enjoy a heaven when they leave this earth; some [BUT ONLY A FEW] shall enjoy a heaven while they are here on earth."

THE KEY TO ENJOYING HEAVEN HERE ON EARTH IS FOUND IN....

Colossians 3:1-2

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind keep setting your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are on earth.

This is the KEY to GLORIFIED, UNSPEAKABLE JOY!!!

And what are the "things above"?

BACK TO 1 PETER 1:3-5

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to **His great mercy** has **caused us**...Who is us?

1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **who are chosen**

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest

measure. Then back to the beginning of **verse 3. to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable cannot be destroyed or corrupted **and undefiled** without defect or flaw **and will not fade away** to dry up, to wither, **reserved** this inheritance exists right now and right now is being reserved **in heaven for you,**

“Reserved in heaven, for you,” speaks of the perseverance of the Saints!!! OUR FUTURE HAS ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED... AND IT HAS BEEN REVEALED TO US WHAT THAT DETERMINATION IS.

5 who [is the “You” from verse 4] **are protected** [guarded, garrisoned. A BULWARK

Something that protects you from danger...present tense....constant, consistent, continually; 1

The guard is never changed. It is on duty twenty-four hours a day, year in and year out until we arrive safe in heaven] **by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

NOW ONTO VERSE SIX

1 Peter 1:6-8

6 In this you **greatly rejoice**, even though now **for a little while** when compared to eternity **if necessary**, you have been **distressed by various trials**,

SKIP TO VERSE EIGHT

8 and though you **have not seen Him**, you love Him, and though you **do not see Him now**, but **believe in Him**, you **greatly rejoice** with **joy inexpressible and full of glory**,

BACK TO JAMES, CHAPTER 1

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH/ THE INVALUABLE ASPECT OF FAITH

James 1:3

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

3 knowing *ginosko* - to understand THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE **that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU **NEED** TO KNOW?

THAT YOUR FAITH IS BEING TESTED

AND THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH [verse 3 again] WILL LEAD TO PERSEVERANCE AND ENDURANCE

The word **TEST** is **dokimon** – to **prove**, to **try**, to **appraise**, to **evaluate**.

This testing is done to **determine** if **YOUR FAITH** is real, genuine, true and trustworthy.

WE NEED TO KNOW that God has a **purpose** when testing our faith and it is to make us **stronger, to produce staying power**.

When James says in verse 2, count it all joy...

James is NOT SAYING that these trials are JOYFUL IN THEMSELVES,

WHAT HE IS SAYING IS THAT THESE TRIALS ARE a MEANS TO AN END – with the end being - SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND MATURITY!!!

THIS IS WHERE versus 3 and 4 COME IN

James 1:3-4

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

“God is the supreme evaluator of everything, and as Christians we want to bring our values into conformity with the values of God.

The problem is that there are certain things God values highly that we do not, and, conversely, certain things we value highly that God considers as so much rubbish.”

“God says that our faith has a much greater value than gold. This is the economy of God, and it was the economy of Jesus when He said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). In other words, how much gold is your soul worth?”

“God values your faith more than He values your gold or your present comfort.”

John 20:29

29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? **Blessed** are they **who did not see, and yet believed.**"

9 obtaining as the **outcome of your faith** the **salvation of your souls**.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.

THIS DOCTRINE OF SUFFERING LEADING TO GLORY WAS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS WELL.

IT IS THE SAME THOUGHT AS THAT CONTAINED IN...

Hebrews 12:11

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

The discipline referred to here in this verse is a **MEANS TO AN END**.

TRIALS ARE A MEANS TO AN END.

Back to James 1:3

James 1:3

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance

Endurance - hupomone – hupo – under; mone – to stay, to abide, to dwell, to reside.

Together it means to **stay under** (behind), to **remain**; to **go through**, to **submit yourself to**; to **bear** (trials), to **have fortitude** [strength, courage, guts, staying power], to **persevere**:

God wants you and I to get under and remain under ANY AND EVERY trial and endure it.

SO, WE **NEED** TO KNOW THAT OUR **FAITH IS BEING TESTED BY GOD** TO PRODUCE **PERSEVERANCE, ENDURANCE, STAYING POWER, STRENGTH OF CHARACTER AND TENACITY** [resolve persistence insistence doggedness firmness] OF SPIRIT.

WE need to know that **God is doing a work in your life!**

WE need to know this, that when WE go through a trial **God is allowing it!**

REMEMBER, SATAN IS SUBJECT TO GOD NOT SOVEREIGN OVER HIM

Job 1:12

12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "**Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.**" So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:6

6 So the LORD said to Satan, "**Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.**"

Ultimately speaking, never blame Satan for your trials...NEVER.

Ultimately speaking, it isn't Satan who is putting you through trials.

WHY???? BECAUSE Satan is SUBJECT to God.

SATAN can't touch YOU anymore than he could touch Job if God didn't allow it.

And in Job's case, God allowed it to test Job's faith.

ULTIMATELY SPEAKING, it is God who allows Satan to bring a trial against you so that God can achieve His **own HOLY ends, purposes and objectives.**

We need to know that this is a test DESIGNED by God carried out by Satan, in some cases, but ALWAYS designed by GOD to **BUILD UP ENDURANCE, PERSEVERANCE AND STRENGTH.**

This sounds a lot like...

1 Peter 5:10

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself **perfect** you

Perfect - to complete, to equip. In other words, to supply what is necessary to make one what they ought to be.

This word speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in rounding out the spiritual life of the saint so that they are equipped for both the living of a Christian life and the service of and to the Lord Jesus **confirm** to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix: to strengthen, make firm; denotes the action of God in keeping believers **firm** and **steady** in their faith; God's aim in confirming us is to make our faith **impregnable** [strong enough to resist or withstand attack; not to be taken by force, unconquerable; not to be overcome or overthrown] in spite of afflictions], **strengthen** [denotes the idea of God making someone **more able or capable** to bear all their sufferings without wavering in their faith] and **establish you** a solid foundational position that is so solid that nothing can shake you or cause you to waver [in your faith]

Matt 7:25

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been **founded on the rock**.

Back to James

James 1:3

3 knowing to acquire information by the agency of personal involvement or experience; to obtain accurate and thorough information about - 'to learn about accurately, to get detailed information, to examine thoroughly.'

to come to understand the meaning of something, with special emphasis upon the process - a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end; **that the testing dokimon** – to *prove*, to *try*, to *appraise*, to *evaluate the genuineness, legitimacy, validity of your faith of your faith* trust, absolute confidence, being fully convinced in the **person and power of God produces** brings about," "works," "achieves," "develops." **endurance** to bear, to suffer, standing fast; to accept or allow oneself to be subjected to especially without giving way

Let's look at...

James 1:4

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

4 And let endurance have its [*let* to allow; *have* – to experience, to undergo, to take part in - Together it means to *allow the experience to happen*; to not prevent it [stop it, put it off, avoid it]; but instead, submit to it, give in to it; let it happen] **perfect teleion** - complete, absolute, whole, total; finished **result** effect produced by a cause; the desired outcome from an action - as interest from money, fruit from planting of crops, a payment for services rendered, **so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

Let it produce what it's designed to produce – which is God's desired result.

Let **endurance, perseverance, patience not be obstructed** or hindered in its influence by our murmuring, our complaining, or our rebellion.

Endurance, perseverance, patience under trials is designed to produce spiritual benefit for the believer, and **we are not to hinder them in any manner** by a **perverse spirit**, or by **opposition to THE WILL OF GOD.**

Do nothing to limit it nor to weaken it; but let it have its full scope: if one affliction come upon the heels of another, and a train of them are drawn upon us, yet let patience go on till its work is perfected.

What about being sick? Do I go to the hospital, do I take medicine, ecetera?

Remember, if anything does work E. G. Medicine, doctors, going to the hospital etc it is because God ultimately allowed him to work.

What about other trials, sufferings, hardships, etc?

Everyone who is afflicted should desire that the effects of affliction produce precisely the results which his trials are adapted to accomplish.

When we bear all that God appoints, and as long as he appoints, and with a humble obedient eye to him, and when we not only bear troubles, but rejoice in them, then patience hath its perfect work.

-What James is saying here is **don't strive** against it, **don't fight** against it.

-LET THE WORK OF GOD TAKE PLACE, EMBRACE IT, AND COME TO TERMS WITH IT...

...AS JESUS DID....

Matthew 26:39

39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; **yet not as I will, but as You will.**"

...AS APOSTLE PAUL DID....

Philippians 4:10-12

11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned **to be content** in whatever circumstances I am.
12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; **in any and every** circumstance **I have learned the secret** of [of facing any and all circumstances] being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

...AND AS WE ARE TO DO...

Isaiah 41:10

10 fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

SO, ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN BECAUSE LOOK AT WHAT IT PRODUCES

Rom 5:3-5

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that **tribulation brings about perseverance**;

4 and perseverance, **proven character**; that which is known to be true or genuine, in the sense of being what it appears to be - 'evidence, proof of genuineness and proven character, hope;

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET THOSE RESULTS IS TO GO THROUGH IT

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted **beyond what you are able**, but **with the temptation** will provide the way of **escape** also, so that you will be able to **endure it**.

...and trust in your heavenly Father like THE LORD JESUS TRUSTED HIS FATHER

1 Peter 2:21-24

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but **kept entrusting** [surrendering, yielding; to give over into (one's) power or use; to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage] **Himself to Him who judges righteously**;

BACK TO JAMES 1:4

4 And let endurance have its perfect result So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work...Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way, without failing.

Make sure that your ability to endure does not stop [or, does not become weak]), **so that you may be perfect** means spiritual maturity; to become a man or woman, fully matured, with all adult faculties and capabilities and strengths **and complete** *holokleeros, holokleeron* - complete in all its parts; well-developed, **lacking in nothing**, not deficient in any way; in no part lacking or unsound, complete, entire, whole.

The word **lacking** also means falling short of a standard.

"...people of integrity with no weak spots" (Phps),

"...a balanced character that will fall short of nothing" (NEB), "...those who are complete, and will not fail in any way" (TNT), "... those who are complete, and not deficient in any way" (NJB).

The phrase **lacking in nothing** is best taken as an added explanation of the quality just mentioned, not as another quality to be attained.

THAT IS THE END RESULT OF TRIALS: FULL, TOTAL, COMPLETE SPIRITUAL MATURITY WITH NO DEFICIENCIES

SOUNDS A LOT LIKE...

1 Peter 5:10

10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect to complete, to equip. In other words, to supply what is necessary to make one what they ought to be.

This word speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in rounding out the spiritual life of the saint so that they are equipped for both the living of a Christian life and the service of and to the Lord Jesus **confirm** to make stable, to strengthen, to make firm; denotes the action of God in keeping believers **firm** and **steady** in their faith; God's aim in confirming us is to make our faith **impregnable** [strong enough to resist or withstand attack; not to be taken by force, unconquerable; not to be overcome or overthrown] in spite of afflictions], **strengthen** [denotes the idea of God making someone **more able or capable** to bear all their sufferings without wavering in their faith] and **establish you** a solid foundational position that is so solid that nothing can shake you or cause you to waver [in your faith]

Matt 7:25

25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been **founded on the rock**.

Back to James 1:4

James 1:2-4

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect means spiritual maturity; to become a man or woman, fully matured, with all adult faculties and capabilities and strengths **and complete** *holokleeros, holokleeron* - complete in all its parts; well-developed, **lacking in nothing** not deficient in any way; in no part lacking or unsound, complete, entire, whole.

IN OTHER WORDS, UNTIL WE ARE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD!

OR

ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING IT, UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN US!

Gal 4:19

19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until **Christ is *formed*** [the word **formed** is from *morphoo* - which refers to the act of giving outward expression of one's inward essence or nature; UNTIL CHRIST IS OUTWARDLY EXPRESSED IN YOU] **in you** —

COMMENTARY ON GALATIANS 4:19

In our Galatian verse, Paul refers to **the outward expression of the Lord Jesus in the lives of the Galatian Christians**.

These to whom Paul was writing, were truly saved.

The Lord Jesus was resident in their hearts.

But there was little of His beauty in their lives.

The word again tells us that at one time He was clearly and abundantly evident in their experience.

But now He ceased to be seen in the lives of the Galatian Christians.

The reason is found in the fact that the Judaizers in placing the Galatian Christians under law, had caused them to **substitute self-effort** *in an attempt to obey a newly imposed law*, for their **previous dependence** upon the Holy Spirit for the production of a Christ-like life in and through them.