

Embracing a Faith of Love

A Bible Study on Faith Expressed in Love

Reflections Grace, Sin and Transformation WhatsApp post, 27 January 2025

Galatians 5:11-15 (referenced)

At the heart of Christianity lies trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, it is important to note that this trust is not just any ordinary faith; it is a faith characterised by love. This faith does not merely express words, nor does it fall asleep, nor does it support individuals in arrogance or encourage them to live in sin. Rather, it is a faith that is active and driven by love, one that is practical and has the ability to manifest through actions. It is not a faith that is limited or stagnant, but a vibrant force that is compelled to act. It is like a flowing river, ever-increasing and moving toward the sea, rather than a frozen body of water. My faith is meaningless if it does not have an impact on my everyday life.

In Galatians 5:11-15, Paul addresses the false teachers who are causing turmoil in Galatia. He confronts a specific lie they have been spreading—that Paul advocated for the circumcision of Gentile Christians. Paul firmly rejects this notion, citing his own ongoing persecution as evidence of his true stance. He contrasts the concept of circumcision with that of the cross, asserting that when followers of Christ cling to circumcision as the sign of their faith, they effectively undermine the significance of the cross. Our true identity is found solely in the sacrificial and suffering love of Jesus. Paul's condemnation of false teaching reveals the intensity of his passion.

Lastly, Paul revisits the topic of freedom, examining what this freedom should entail for believers in their daily lives. This freedom is not a justification for self-indulgence; instead, it should inspire Christ-followers to engage in acts of sacrificial love.