

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for August 17, 2008**

**Principles of Spiritual Restoration**  
**Galatians 6:1-5**  
**Gerry Andersen**

**1. The Principle of Spiritual Assessment (6:1)**

- a. The person must be in need of restoration

The word used for restoration, used in the gospels for mending fishing nets, means to put into its original condition.

This text is written to the brethren and about the brethren. Unbelievers are in need of regeneration, not restoration.

- b. The person must be caught in a trespass

“Trespass” is a stepping aside and is synonymous with sin.

Those who seek to restore people who are not trespassing are guilty of passing judgment (Romans 14).

These people are brethren who are “caught,” meaning “overtaken.” The King James Version shows this is one who has succumbed to the trespass, “if a man be overtaken.”

“Caught” communicates a lack of rebelliousness.

**2. The Principle of Spiritual Aspiration (6:1-2)**

- a. We must be spiritual

The description of the spiritual one can be found in the preceding verses (Galatians 5:22-26). The point of emphasis is not a person’s skill but on the person’s will.

Just as we can quickly become qualified, we can quickly become unqualified.

- b. We must be gentle (2 Corinthians 10:1)

Gentleness is a fruit of the spirit that not only recognizes God’s power to bring change but also recognizes our lack of power to bring change.

- c. We must be reflective (1 Corinthians 10:12)

Worse than failing to restore a brother is to attempt to do so hypocritically (Matthew 7:3-5).

d. We must take the initiative to bear burdens

In order to bear one another's burdens we must be in a position to serve in this way.

The law of Christ is fulfilled because we bear burdens with love (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:21). Loving your neighbor is the law of Christ (Romans 13:8).

### **3. The Principle of Spiritual Abasement (6:3)**

Our success in the Christian life depends not only upon our correct view of God but also upon our correct view of us.

### **4. The Principle of Spiritual Accomplishment (6:4)**

Whatever is accomplished through our ministry comes from God alone (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:6).

### **5. The Principle of Spiritual Accountability (6:5)**

The Greek word for "load" in verse 6:5 is not the heavy burden found in 6:2 but refers to a lighter backpack. The commandments of God are not burdensome (1 John 5:3: Matthew 11:30).

May we walk with God in such a manner that we are also able to serve others abundantly (cf. Hebrews 12:1-3).