

## (5) Freedom From Discouragement

Galatians: 4:8-20

📖 Proverbs 14:4 (NLT) *“Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.”*

### Stay faithful even when you wonder [if your efforts are being wasted](#).

📖 Galatians 4:8–11 (NIV) *“Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? <sup>10</sup> You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! <sup>11</sup> I fear for you, that somehow, I have wasted my efforts on you.”*

📖 Romans 14:5–6 (NIV) *“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.”*

### Stay faithful even when you wonder [if your relationships are real](#).

📖 Galatians 4:12–16 (NIV) *“I plead with you, brothers, become like me, for I became like you. You have done me no wrong. <sup>13</sup> As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. <sup>14</sup> Even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup> What has happened to all your joy? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup> Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth?”*

📖 1 Corinthians 9:21–23 (ESV) *“To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”*

📖 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*

📖 Philippians 3:17 (NIV) *“Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.”*

### Stay faithful even when you wonder [if they will choose to leave](#).

📖 Galatians 4:17 (NIV) *“Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them.”*

📖 Galatians 4:18 (NIV) *“It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.”*

📖 Galatians 4:19-20 (NIV) *“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup> how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!”*

Do you ever feel like you are wasting your time? Can you describe a time when you thought you had a good relationship with someone, but it turned out to be fake? How is possible for people to switch from “giving you the shirt off their backs” to icing you out? Discuss the following statements: “Not one scar on my heart came from the enemy, they all came from people who said they ‘loved’ me.” “The cost of a real relationship is risk.” “Reaching someone for Christ is worth whatever it costs.” Lastly, take a moment and thank God for the people in your life who have proven to be genuine. Who is your best friend?

