

Galatians: The Letter that Saved the Church

# The Age of the Spirit



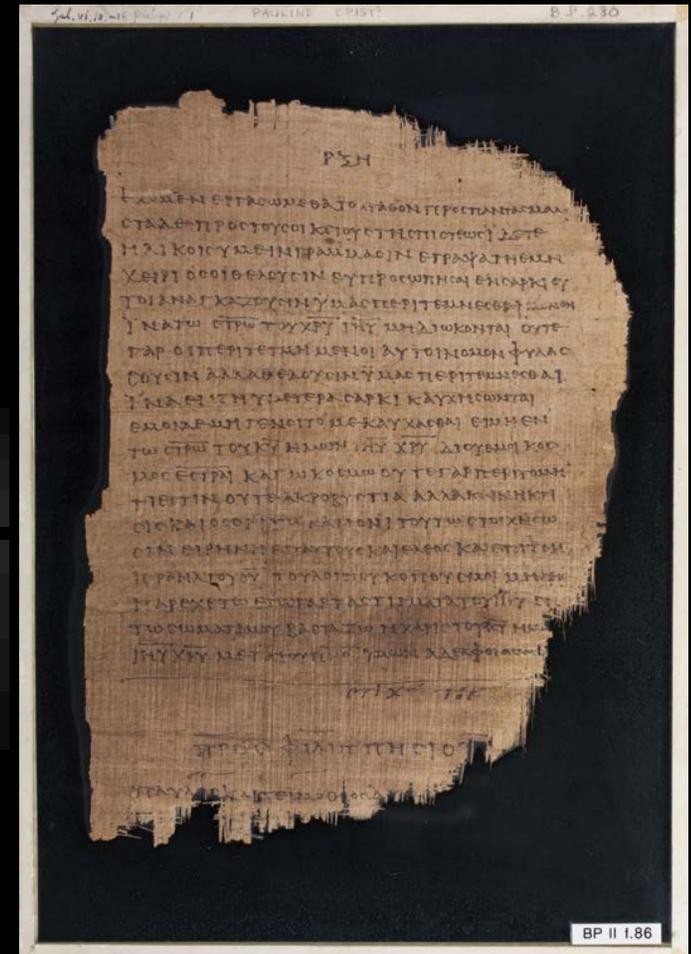
Galatians 5:13-24

Blackhawk Church 2021

# Galatians 5:1-6

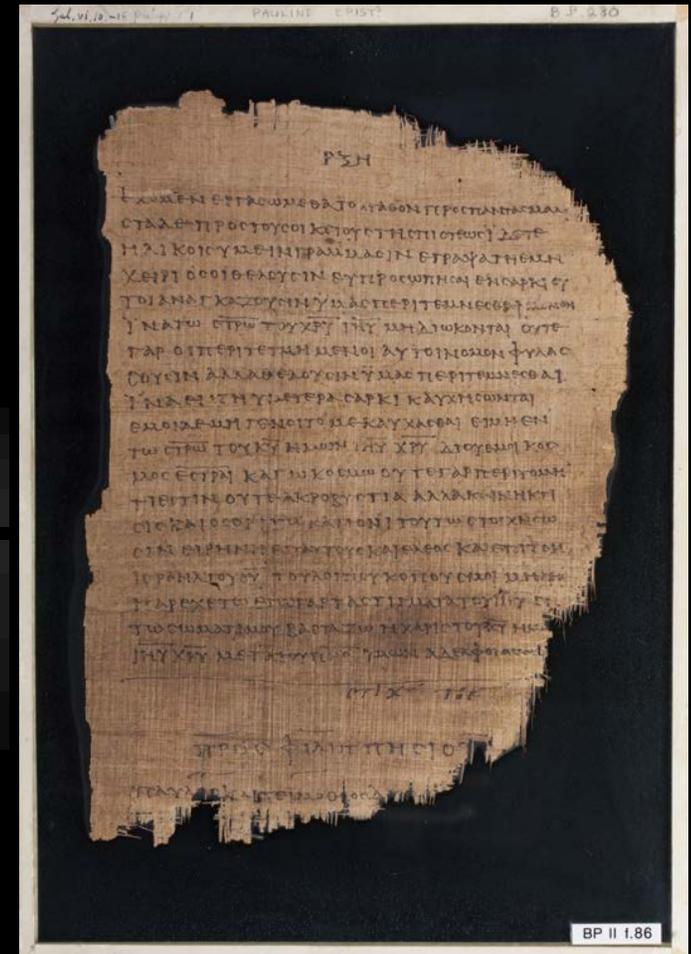
<sup>1</sup> It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup> Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup> Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.



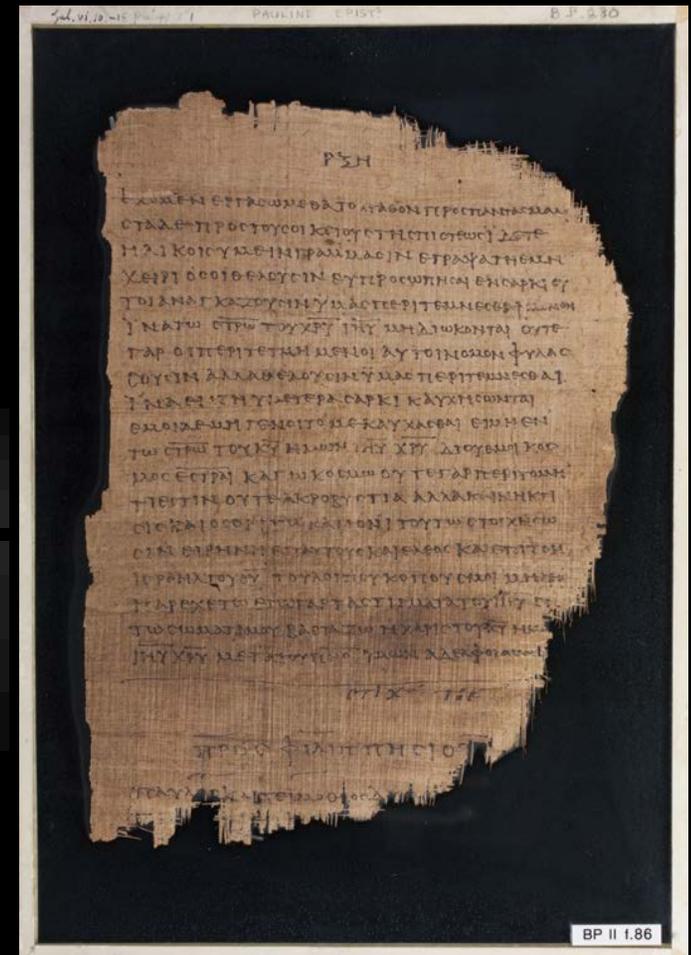
# Galatians 5:13-15

<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. **But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.** <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.



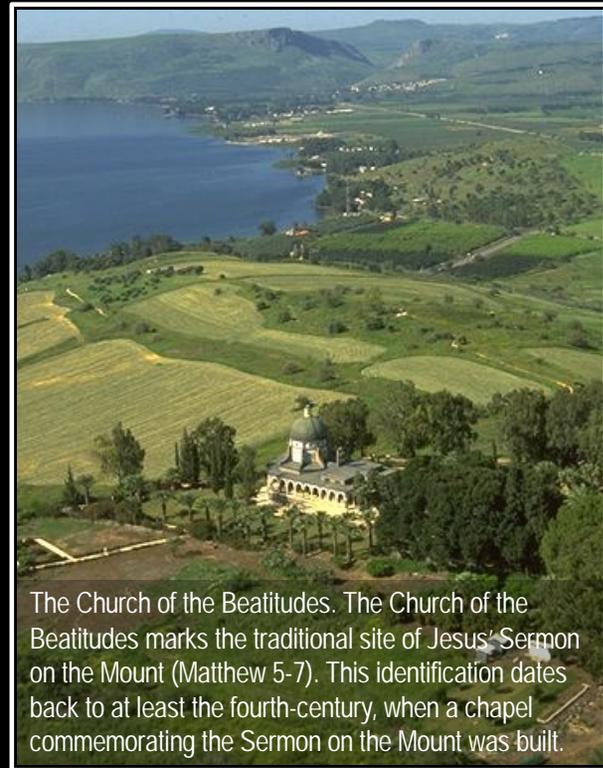
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## Fulfilling the Torah (Matthew 5)

5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.



The Church of the Beatitudes. The Church of the Beatitudes marks the traditional site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). This identification dates back to at least the fourth-century, when a chapel commemorating the Sermon on the Mount was built.



## The Summary of the Torah (Mark 12:28-31)

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

<sup>29</sup> “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

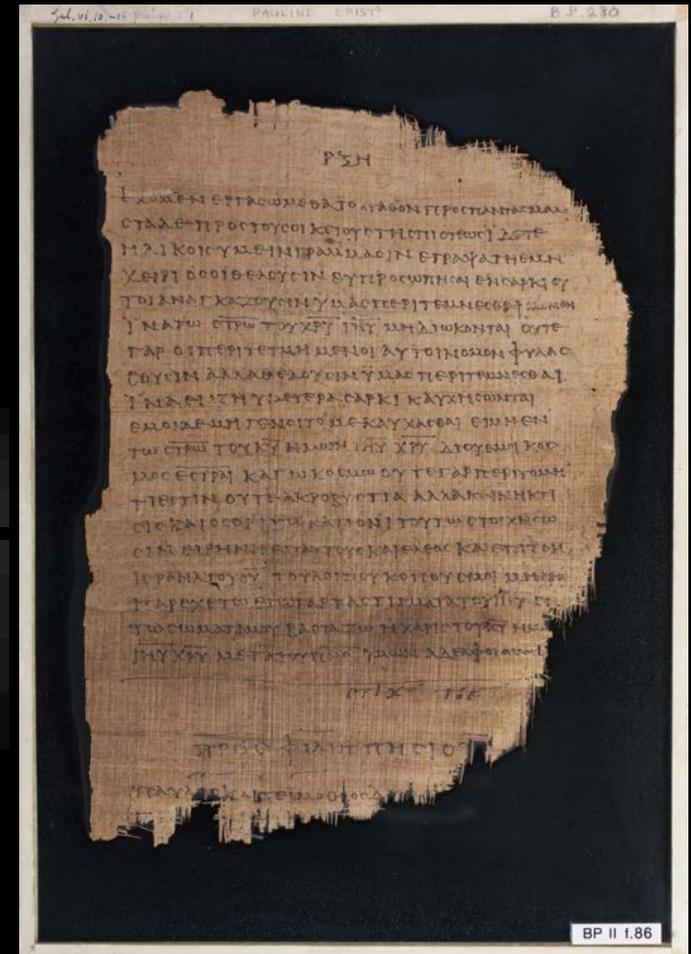


The Western Wall of the Temple Mount (also known as the Wailing Wall). Long believed to be the only surviving remnant of Solomon's Temple, Jews have come here for centuries to mourn the Temple's destruction and to offer up prayers. It is now known that this wall was originally built by Herod the Great and formed the western extent of his Temple Mount.

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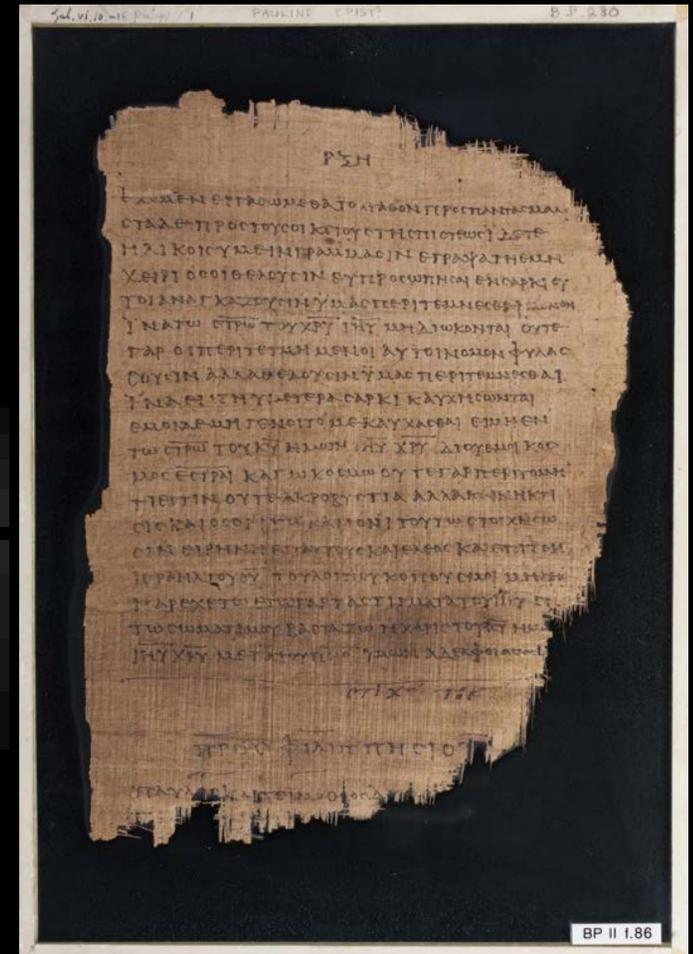
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# Galatians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the **Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the **Spirit**, and the **Spirit** what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not under the law.



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 1. Basic Meaning

In the OT *rûah* occurs 378 times in Hebrew texts and 11 times in Aramaic passages. Its basic meaning is "wind," "moving air," and "breath."



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 2. For Military Leaders

Special power given to charismatic military leaders. Here we seem to be dealing with a temporally limited gift of the spirit for the purpose of executing an extraordinary task.

*Judg 11:29* Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites.

*Judg 14:6* The Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon him so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 3. For Ecstatic Prophets

Special power given to the ecstatic prophets. Once again, it is a temporally limited gift of the spirit for the purpose of executing an extraordinary task.

*Num 24:2-3a* When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him and he spoke his message:

*2 Kgs 2:9* When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 4. For Kings, Historical and Eschatological

The Spirit of God was related to blessings, skills, and protection for the king.

*1 Sam 16:13–14* So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

*Isa 11:1–2* A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—



## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 5. For the Return from Exile

The Spirit of God was God's creative power to bring Israel back from the dead.

Ezek 37:1-14 <sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.' "

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*Ezek 37:1-14* <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no **breath** in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the **breath**; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, **breath**, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and **breath** entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' " <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my **Spirit** in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.' "

## The Spirit in the Old Testament

### 6. For the People of the Eschaton

The Spirit of God is more than the restoration of Israel, but also the transformation of its people, the source of empowerment for their life in the final age, and basis of a renewed intimacy with God.

*Ezek 39:28–29* Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my **Spirit** on the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD."



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*Joel 2:28–29* "And afterward,

I will pour out my **Spirit** on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my **Spirit** in those days.



## The Spirit in the Galatians

*Gal 3:2* I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the **Spirit** by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?

*Gal 3:14* He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the **Spirit**.

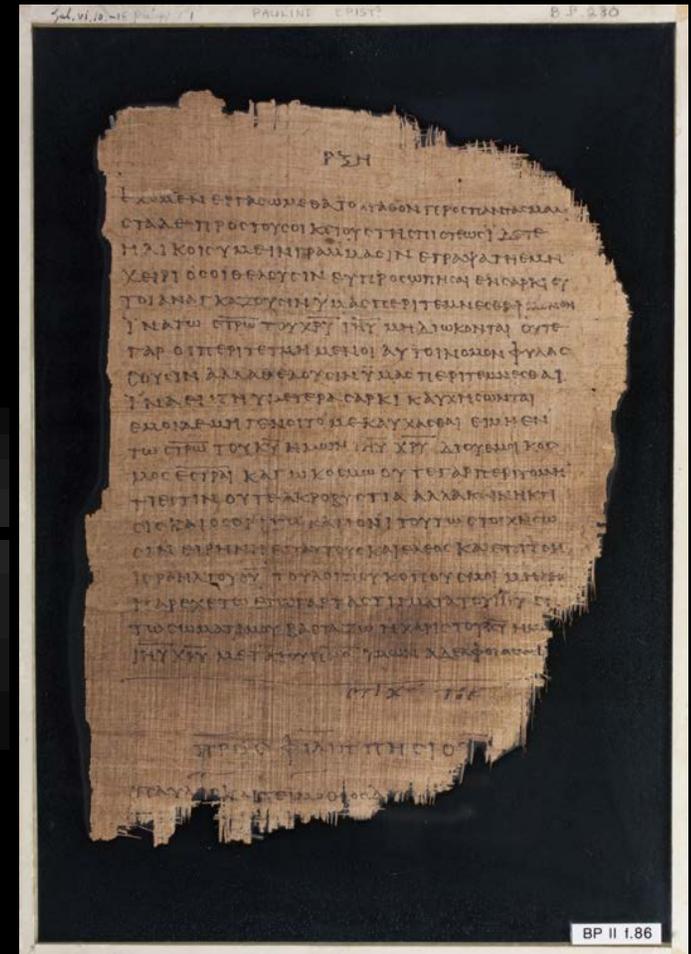
*Gal 4:6* Because you are his sons, God sent the **Spirit** of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba , Father."

*Gal 5:5* For through the **Spirit** we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.



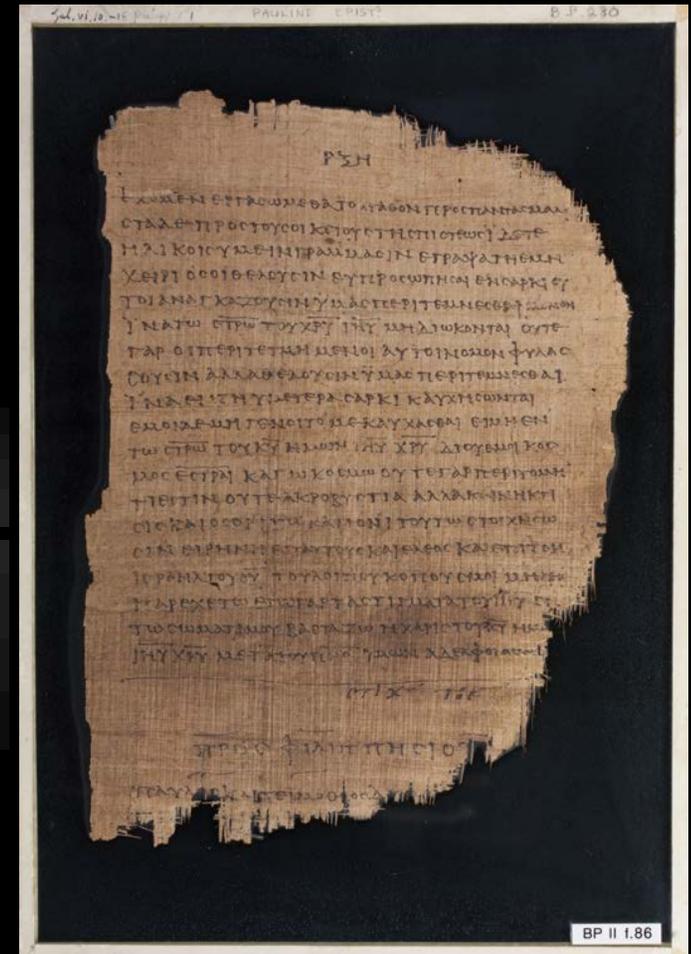
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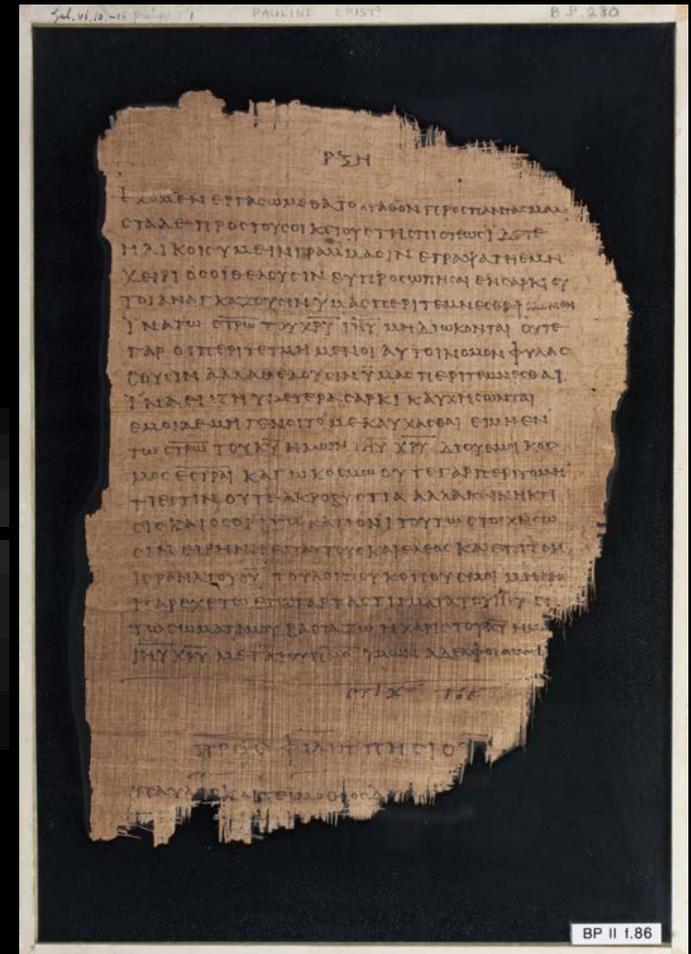
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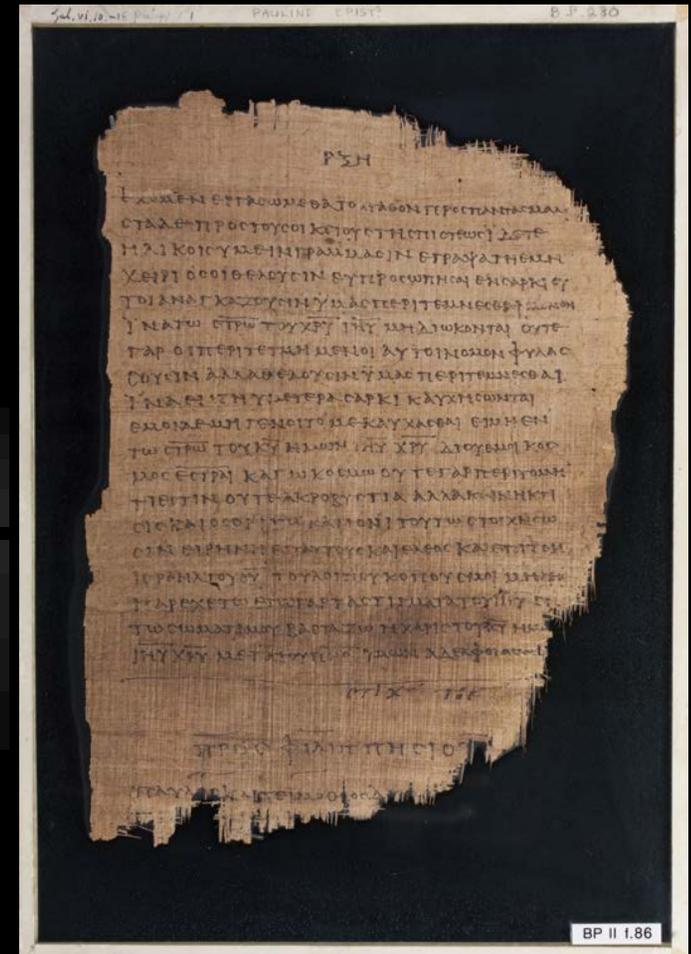
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# Galatians 5:19-24

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

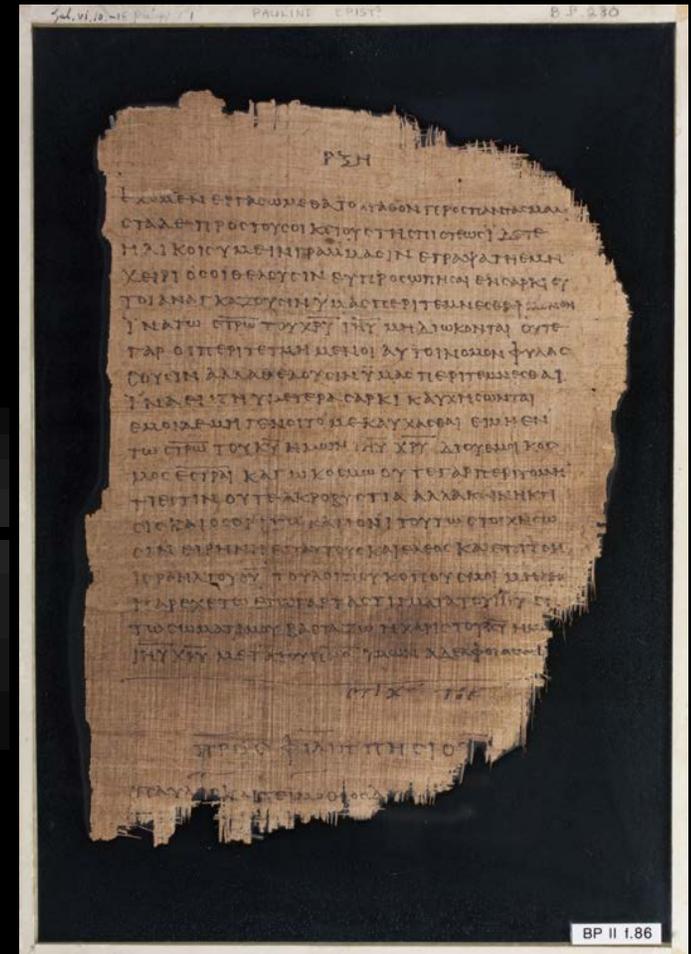
<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



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# A Conversation (Gal. 5:13-24)

Galatians: But Paul, without the Torah, how will people know how to live? This freedom thing would lead to all kinds of immorality and sin.

Paul: Did you forget that we are in the new age? We are in Christ and we are given the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives us the ability to freely “enslave” ourselves to serve others. This Spirit transforms us and empowers us to live rightly without the written Torah. We develop characteristics (“fruit”) that are defined by the Spirit, and we move away from those characteristics defined by our broken humanity (“flesh”).

