**Galatians 5:13-26 (ESV)**

**13**For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14**For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **15**But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

**16**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19**Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20**idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, **21**envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **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. **24**And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**25**If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. **26**Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

# Christmas – the season of love, joy and peace

# We hope for love, joy and peace

# Two realities

## In the flesh = perform works of the flesh (v19-21)

## In the Spirit = bear fruit of the Spirit (v22-23)

## We are “in the flesh”, enslaved under the Law

## “In the flesh” = will not inherit the Kingdom of God (v21)

# God’s gift: Freedom through Christ

# Given Christ and His Spirit

## Freedom from enslavement and curse of the Law

## Freedom to fulfil the Law

# Given the gift of being God’s people

# Will you receive this gift?