

## **The Balancing Act**

### **Part III; July 2, 2017**

#### **“Chains of Freedom”**

God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

– Romans 5:20–6:4 (NLT)

**God gave us the law to reveal sin and then sent his Son to free us from sin, not for the sake of the Law nor for the sake of our Freedom but for Faith.**

**The opportunity to be faithful to the heart of God by:**

#### **Learning to be present with Jesus**

“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. – Luke 15:28-29 (NLT)

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” – Luke 22:39-42 (ESV)

#### **Learning to lean on Jesus**

You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!” Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires. – Colossians 2:20-23 (NLT)

#### **Learning to love like Jesus**

Sodom’s sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. – Ezekiel 16:49 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! – Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)