

## Freedom from a Foolish Faith Galatians 3:1-18

### Avoid a foolish faith by learning the answer to these questions from Paul. Galatians 3:1-5

(v.1) *"You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?"*

- **What is a foolish faith?** When I try to gain salvation or favor with God by my good works and not through Jesus Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4

(v.2) *"This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?"*

- **How do you receive the Holy Spirit?** Not by my efforts but by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Titus 3:5-7, 1 Corinthians 12:13

(v. 3) *"Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"*

- **How can you be perfected in holiness?** Not by my efforts but by the same faith in the Holy Spirit that saved me.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 1:22

(v. 4) *"Did you suffer so many things in vain – if indeed it was in vain?"*

- **Is the suffering of believers a wasted effort?** Yes, if I think God owes me - but, No, when it spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Acts 14:19-23

(v. 5) *"So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?"*

- **Does God's spiritual power work in me because I keep the law, or walk by faith?**
- Jeremiah 9:23-24

### We must remember, it was faith alone that saved the Old Testament saints. Galatians 3:6-9

(v. 6-7) *"Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham."*

- **Abraham was saved by faith and declared righteous.**

(v. 8-9) *The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.*

- **Any Gentile was saved by faith and blessed because of Abraham.**

### Our freedom from the curse of the law comes only through Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:10-14

(v. 13-14) *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE'— in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."*

### Our freedom from sin and the curse of the law is a permanent promise from God.

Galatians 3:15-18

(v. 18) *"For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise."*

## Digging Deeper:

Paul addresses the important issue of justification in Galatians 2:16. Justification is God declaring that we are now righteous people. This is not achieved by good works but by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul repeats that twice in this one verse to really drive home this point.

It is so important that we understand and grow in our spiritual freedom. This freedom from sin does not occur because we keep the laws of Moses, but because of the work of Christ—His death, burial and resurrection to accomplish the forgiveness of our sins. Sometimes however, we forget that the faith that saves us is also the same faith that can sustain our spiritual life. There is a tendency to gravitate to legalism, where after believing in Jesus, we now think we have to work in our own strength to gain the favor of God and His righteousness. Today's text, Galatians 3:3, reminds us that the Holy Spirit is that power from God to keep us in His righteousness.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

What are some legalistic standards or behaviors that you have experienced or seen others force on people to look really spiritual?

What does Paul say about trying to gain God's righteousness by these human standards in Galatians 3:3?

Learn more about the importance of the Spirit's work to empower us to live the good Christian life in the following passages.

Ephesians 1:1-14. Notice the full work of the trinity in our salvation. God the Father sovereignly chose us in Ephesians 1:1-6. Jesus Christ His Son redeemed us from sin in Ephesians 1:7-12.

And, the Holy Spirit seals us to keep us saved until the day we die in Ephesians 1:13, 14. No person or sin can break that seal from God. Do you ever feel as though you might lose your salvation? What makes you feel that way? How does this truth help you?

The Holy Spirit fills us to give us power in Ephesians 5:18. Read Ephesians 5:19-21. What are some of the results of the filling of the Holy Spirit? Where have you seen that in your life? If you read the rest of the chapter, you can see what the filling of the Holy Spirit can accomplish in a marriage. What are some of those results?

How did the Holy Spirit help Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5? How can He help you as well?

How can the Holy Spirit help you with the Bible according to 1 Corinthians 2:12, 13? How have you benefited from this Spirit led study of the Bible?

## Next Steps:

1. **Respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.** Come to the Prayer Points or find any leader at Calvary Church to pray with you about taking a next step toward surrendering to Jesus and living for His Kingdom. Learn more in the booklet "The Way" in the seat racks or visit our website at [calvarylife.org/Jesus](http://calvarylife.org/Jesus)
2. **Connect with others to grow in your faith:** Calvary offers many ways for you to grow as a follower of Jesus. Learn about **Mentoring, LifeGroups, Equipping Classes, Care Ministries** and more by filling out *The Card* and dropping it in the offering or by visiting Connection Point in the Lobby today. [calvarylife.org/grow](http://calvarylife.org/grow)
3. **Share the good news of Jesus with a friend.** Start praying that God will give you love, courage, opportunity and the words to say. Invest and invite your friends and family into a relationship with Jesus.



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