



Galatians

The Spirit is Received by Faith Part 2

Gal 3:1-5





- Chapter three starts a new section of Galatians.
- Remember we divided the book up into three parts:
 - In section one: Paul defends his apostleship. Chapters 1&2
 - In section two: Paul defends his message. Justification is by faith alone. Chapters 3&4
 - In section three: Paul applies this message to our lives. Chapters 5&6
- In this letter there are a couple of key words that appear repeatedly,
 - One key word is **Law**. It appears 32 times.
 - The other key word is **Faith**, which is mentioned 21 times.
- Paul's whole message to the Galatians revolves around these two words.
- How are you saved? By keeping the law, or through of faith?

Gal 2:16 **Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.**



-Now in chapter 3, Paul methodically defends Justification by faith and faith alone.

-‘The Bible Knowledge Commentary’ outlines it this way:

1. By the experience of the Galatians 3:1-5
2. By the example of Abraham 3:6-9
3. By the effect of the Law 3:10-12
4. By the work of Christ 3:13-14
5. By the permanence of faith 3:15-18
6. By the purpose of the Law 3:19-25
7. By the believer’s present position 3:26-29

-In verses 1-5 we look at the personal experience of the Galatians.

-In The first verse we saw how the Judaizers had deceived the believers.

Foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?

-In the next four verses Paul introduces the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

-Paul brings up the Holy Spirit three different times using three questions.

-Paul assumes that the Galatians knew they had received the Holy Spirit.



-Paul and Barnabas not only shared the gospel with them but also spent time teaching them the truths which were later written down in both this epistle and the letter to the Romans.

-Paul is here to remind them of those truths.

-The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is key to understanding the rest of Galatians.

-We're going to take time to show the importance of this indwelling.

-At the point of salvation, every believer is baptized with the Holy Spirit.

-What exactly does it mean to be baptized?

-This is a transliteration of the Greek word (*βαπτίζω* - *baptizō*) meaning to immerse or plunge.

The spiritual meaning of the word is 'to identify with'.

-(*βαπτίζω* - baptizo) Our English translators **transliterated** the word 'baptize'.

-It would have been better to **translate** it as 'immerse', 'plunge', or even 'identify'.

-The reason it was **transliterated** 'baptize' was because of all the different theological powers that influenced our translations in the 16th century.



-In the Middle Ages, church leaders had been practicing infant baptism and sprinkling for over a thousand years.

-Because the Roman Catholic Church was identified with the state, to challenge that practice was to make a political statement.

-To be on the safe side, instead of translating it 'immerse', they just transliterated the word.

-There are actually eight different types of baptisms in the Bible. Three of them are wet baptisms and five are dry.

All eight have to do with identification.

-There are three wet baptisms: These are ritual.

1. John the Baptist's baptism Matthew 3:1-6

¹ Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" . . . ⁶ and they were being **baptized** by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

-Their repentance was a change of mind concerning the Kingdom of God. By baptism, they were **identifying** with the fact that the Kingdom of God was at hand.



2. Jesus' Baptism Matthew 3:13,15

¹³ Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan *coming* to John, to be **baptized** by him. . . ¹⁵ for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

-Christ's baptism **identified** Him with the plan of God and His public ministry on earth.

3. Believers Baptism Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. . .

-The new believer is immersed in water **identifying** him with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

-Then there are five dry baptisms: these are real.

4. Baptism of Noah 1 Peter 3:20-21

²⁰ in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*.²¹ Corresponding to that, **baptism** now saves you. . .



-Baptism as an antitype “The baptism now saves you”
identifying the believer with the Ark through the water.

5. Baptism of Moses 1 Corinthians 10:1-2

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren,
that our fathers were all under the cloud and
all passed through the sea; ² and all were **baptized**
into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

-Leaving Egypt through the Red Sea, all were identified
with Moses into a new life. An antitype of believer's
identification with Christ.

6. Baptism of Fire Matthew 3:11,12

¹¹ As for me [John the Baptist], I baptize you with water
for repentance, but He who is coming after me is
mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His
sandals; He will **baptize** you with the Holy Spirit and
fire.

-This identifies all unbelievers who survive the tribulation
with fire. Those unbelievers will go through fire and be
judged. See also Matt 25:31-46, 2 Thess 1:7-9, Rev 19:11



7. Baptism of the Cross Mark 10:38-40

³⁸ Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be **baptized** with the **baptism** with which I am **baptized?**" ³⁹ They said to Him, "We (James and John) are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be **baptized** with the **baptism** with which I am **baptized**. ⁴⁰ But to sit on My right or on *My* left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

-Jesus Christ was **identified** with our sins on the cross when he was judged for them as our substitute. James and John could not go with Christ to the cross but would be identified with Him after the cross.

8. Baptism of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.



-At the point of salvation, we are **identified** with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

-This baptism involved the permanent sealing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in everyone who put their faith in Christ.

-The baptism of the Holy Spirit began on the day of Pentecost, after the cross, which puts every believer 'In Christ' during this church age.

John 14:16,17 ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Acts 1:7,8 ⁷ "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;"

-Unlike Old Testament saints; every believer today is indwelt permanently by the Holy Spirit.



-This brings us to verse three in Galatians chapter three.

¹ You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 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?

³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 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?

-Wait a minute? -If works didn't save you, why would you want your life ruled by works?

-Haven't we already established there is absolutely nothing we can do to please God?



**Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit,
are you now being perfected by the flesh?**

- Are you so foolish?** (*ἀνόητοι* - *anoētoi*) unwise, senseless, not understanding
- God's grace is what saved you when you believed.
- It was God's grace that provided you with the Holy Spirit.
- Why would you abandon His Spirit and try to live by your own efforts (the flesh)?
- If we are to mature as a believer it will be by means of the Holy Spirit, not the flesh.
- Being perfected** perfected (*ἐπιτελεισθε* - *epiteleisthe*) brought to maturity
- The flesh** (*σαρκὶ* - *sarki*) physical body, human effort
- It's obvious from this verse that we are either walking by means of the Spirit or by the flesh.

It's not a percentage; it's either one or the other.



- We are either in fellowship, or we're out of fellowship.
- We're either abiding in Him or we're not.
- We are either walking in the light, or we're walking in darkness.

Galatians 5:16-18 **¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

-In doing so, our life will be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, as opposed to any effort or work we try to do in our flesh. Galatians 5:22-24

-Our spiritual life is one of faith in what God provided when He imputed to us Christ's righteousness. That's our position 'In Christ'; not by any good deed, work, or righteousness we think we have.

Galatians 5:25 **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

-We still have that old sin nature and when we screw up - admit that to God, confess it, and move on.



Did you suffer so many things in vain --
if indeed it was in vain? vs 4

- Paul now gets very personal with the believers in Galatia.
- He knows firsthand what they sacrificed when they turned away from the Mosaic Law and turned to Christ.
- Notice Paul and Barnabas' ministry in Pisidian Antioch in Act 13:

⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and *began contradicting the things spoken by Paul and were blaspheming. . .*

- First, notice that “nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord”.
- It is estimated that there were around 100,000 people living in Antioch during the first century.
- This brings us back to verse one where Christ was “publicly portrayed as crucified”. Nearly the whole city was aware of Paul’s ministry.



-How did nearly everyone in a city of that size hear about the gospel? Paul had only been there for about a week.

-That was amazing, seeing as there were no billboards, radio, TV, cell phones, or internet.

-Christ's 'crucifixion portrayed' could only have been the result of the Holy Spirit ministry.

-It's amazing what can be accomplished under the power of the Holy Spirit.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

-After Paul and Barnabas moved on to the next city, the persecution was then directed to those who put their faith in Christ.

-Paul was aware of the persecution and suffering they were going through.

-It would be easy to show scripture after scripture concerning how suffering is profitable and necessary in our life, **but I don't think that is what Paul is getting at here.**



-He is reminding them of the freedom they had when they first believed.

-They were no longer under the bondage of sin.

-They no longer had to follow a system of laws, that even those before them found impossible to follow.

-Remember how good it was to discover the grace of God and relax in His love?

-Remember how their relationship with God was based on what God did and not what they had to do?

-**But now**, because of the persecution from the legalists and Judaizers, they have abandoned God's grace for that old way of living,

“Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?”

-You were condemned by your friends, shunned by the synagogue, considered dead by your family.

-Think about it; was all that suffering a waste of time? Was it all in vain?

Are you so foolish?

Who has bewitched you?



“So then” - Let’s sum this all up:

Galatians 3:5 . . .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?

-The word “miracles” may be a bit misleading:

Miracle (*δύναμις* - *dynamis*) power, ability, strength, supernatural, and in some cases, physical miracles.

-The context suggests that it is the Holy Spirit that gives you the power, ability, and strength to live your life as a Christian.

-This is not necessarily talking about performing miracles, although that did happen.

-The first five verses in chapter three introduces the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is seen throughout the rest of Galatians.

-And that was by the hearing of faith when you believed.

-Do we really want to ignore the Holy Spirit who indwells us and go back to a system of rules and regulations which can only enslave us?

-Ron Merryman states: “The five questions of Galatians 3:1-5 are intended as stimulators to jolt the unthinking Galatian believers out of their delusion.”



Galatians

The Spirit is Received by Faith Part 2

Gal 3:1-5

