

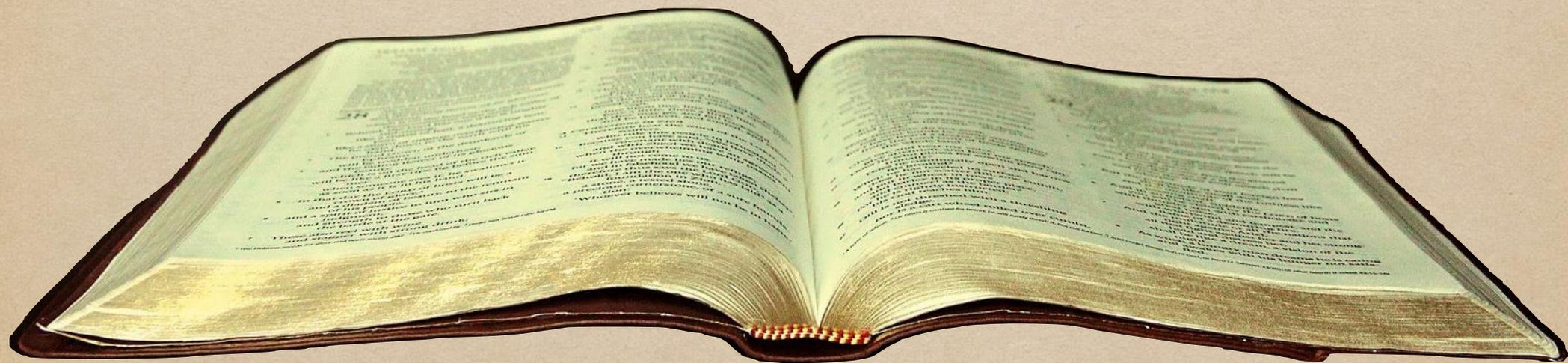


# Galatians

## From Blessing to Bondage

Part 2

Gal 4:15-20





-Here are a few truths we have learned from our study in Galatians:

- ✓ Legalism is the enemy of grace, and those who live under legalism deny the very essence of grace.
- ✓ Once saved, there are two options in the Believers life.
- ✓ It is either legalism or grace. There is no middle ground.
- ✓ We are either operating on the basis of Grace, or we are operating on the basis of legalism.
- ✓ Really, **there is no middle ground.**

-That is Paul's message to the Galatians and his message to us.

-Once saved, we have the choice to live by:

- Grace or law
- faith or works
- The flesh or the Spirit



-Which brings us to our passage in Galatians 4:15-20

**15** Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me. **16** So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

**17** They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them. **18** But it is good always to be eagerly sought in a commendable manner, and not only when I am present with you.

**19** My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— **20** but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

-Paul is personally and emotionally concerned about those believers who have abandoned him and returned to living by the Mosaic Law. Or in the case of the Gentiles, “**the weak and worthless elemental things**” which has enslaved them all over again (4:9)

**So, have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? (4:16)**



-In our text this morning we're going to look at just the last two verses:

<sup>19</sup> My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— <sup>20</sup> but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

## I. Verse 20

<sup>20</sup> but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

### A. Overview of the Context

- Paul has shifted from doctrinal teaching (Gal. three and four) to a personal emotional appeal.(Gal 4:12-20).
- He reminds them how they once received him with love (4:13-15).
- Now he is grieved and confused by their change (4:16-19).
- Now in verse 20 his desire is to be with them in person to remedy the situation.
- He is at a loss as to what to do.



## B. Key Phrases

### 1. "I Am Perplexed"

-What does Paul mean when he says, "**I am perplexed**"?

-The word translated "perplexed" is ἀποροῦμαι (*aporoumai*), from the verb ἀπορέω (*aporeō*).

-It literally means to be without a way (from "a" – without, and "poros" - passage or way)

-when you put an alpha (ἄ) in front of a word, it usually serves as a prefix meaning "not," "without," or "opposite of."

-(Theos - Θεός) God – (atheos - ἄθεος) atheist or no God

-He is at a loss as to what he can do for them.

-He is bewildered, confused, and uncertain.

-How can anyone, who once experienced the Grace of God now go back to law?

-Although saved did they not understand grace?

-Paul's answer to this – ἀπορεο "No Way".

**-Perplexed indeed!**



## 2. “Change My Tone”

-I wish now to, “**change my tone**”

-change (ἀλλάξαι - *allaxai*) to change, alter, transform

-tone (φωνή - *phōnē*) voice, tone, sound

-Paul is literally saying, “I wish I could **alter my voice** with you”.

-Up to this point Paul has been very sharp in rebuking them for turning away from grace.

3:1 **You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you. . .**

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

## 3. “Be Present With You”

-There is no way Paul could ever show his actual love and concern for them in a letter, a note, a telegram, a phone call, or a text message. There are certain things best related in person.

-“If I could see you in person, I might not have to sound so severe. I could speak tenderly, as I truly feel.”

-Since that was not going to happen, this leads us to our second point:



## II. Verse 19

**19 My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—**

### A. Key Phrases

#### 1. “My children”

- My children (τεκνία - teknia) This is the only time Paul uses the diminutive form expressing affection or tenderness.
- He does use the general term tekna in other books.
- But here in Galatians, his angriest letter overall, he is appealing to them from the heart, not the head.

#### 2. “I am again in labor”

- Notice verse 11 **“I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain.”**
- In verse 11(κοπιᾶω - kopiaō), it has reference to physical effort, sweat, and toil, like manual labor.
- But in our verse 19 (ὠδίνω - ōdinō) it only has reference to labor pains as in childbirth.



-This contrast strengthens his emotional appeal:

-“I have labored for you as a worker (vs11), and now I labor again like a mother in childbirth (vs19).”

-He already experienced labor **once** when they first believed (Acts 13–14; Gal 3:1–5).

-Now he must “labor” **again**, as in childbirth, because they have left grace and gone back to the law.

### 3. “Until Christ Is Formed In You”

-This is the conclusion that Paul has come to in his appeal to the Galatians.

-And this phrase deserves a category all its own:

## B. Until Christ Formed In You

-Formed comes from the Greek word (μορφόω - *morphoō*)  
To shape or mold.

-To give outward expression to an inward reality.

-To bring something or someone to its intended, mature form.



-The Greek grammar matters here:

Formed **μορφωθῆ** - **aorist passive subjunctive**

**passive:** You don't form yourself.

**God does the forming** by means of the Holy Spirit.

**aorist:** Sees the whole process as a completed result.

**subjunctive:** A desired outcome, not yet reality.

-This is: -Not Christ's indwelling (that happened at salvation)

-Not receiving more grace or a second blessing

-Not imitating Christ externally

-Not Positional Truth (that happened at salvation)

-This is the spiritual formation, growth, and maturation in the believer's life. We're talking Condition here, not Position.

-In the "Three Phases of Salvation" this would be the second phase.

– Progressive Sanctification –

# THREE STAGES OF SALVATION



## Phase One



**Justification**

**Saved From the  
penalty of Sin**

**Positional  
Sanctification**

**“you were saved”**

## Phase Two

**Spiritual Life**

**Saved from the  
Power of Sin**

**Progressive  
Sanctification**

**“you are being saved”**

## Phase Three

**Glorification**



**Saved from the  
Presence of Sin**

**Ultimate  
Sanctification**

**“you will be saved”**



-This all goes back to what Paul introduced in chapter three:

## The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

**<sup>3</sup> Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? . . . <sup>5</sup> So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit. . .do it by the works of the Law or by the hearing with faith?**

-Paul will finish his doctrinal section in chapter four by illustrating the futility of the law with Sarah and Hagar.

-He will then show how **Christ is formed in us**, not by our works, but by faith in the work of the Holy Spirit (H.S.) in our everyday life in chapters five and six.

-But before we go there, it is important to realize that the H.S. functions in two different ways in the believer's life.

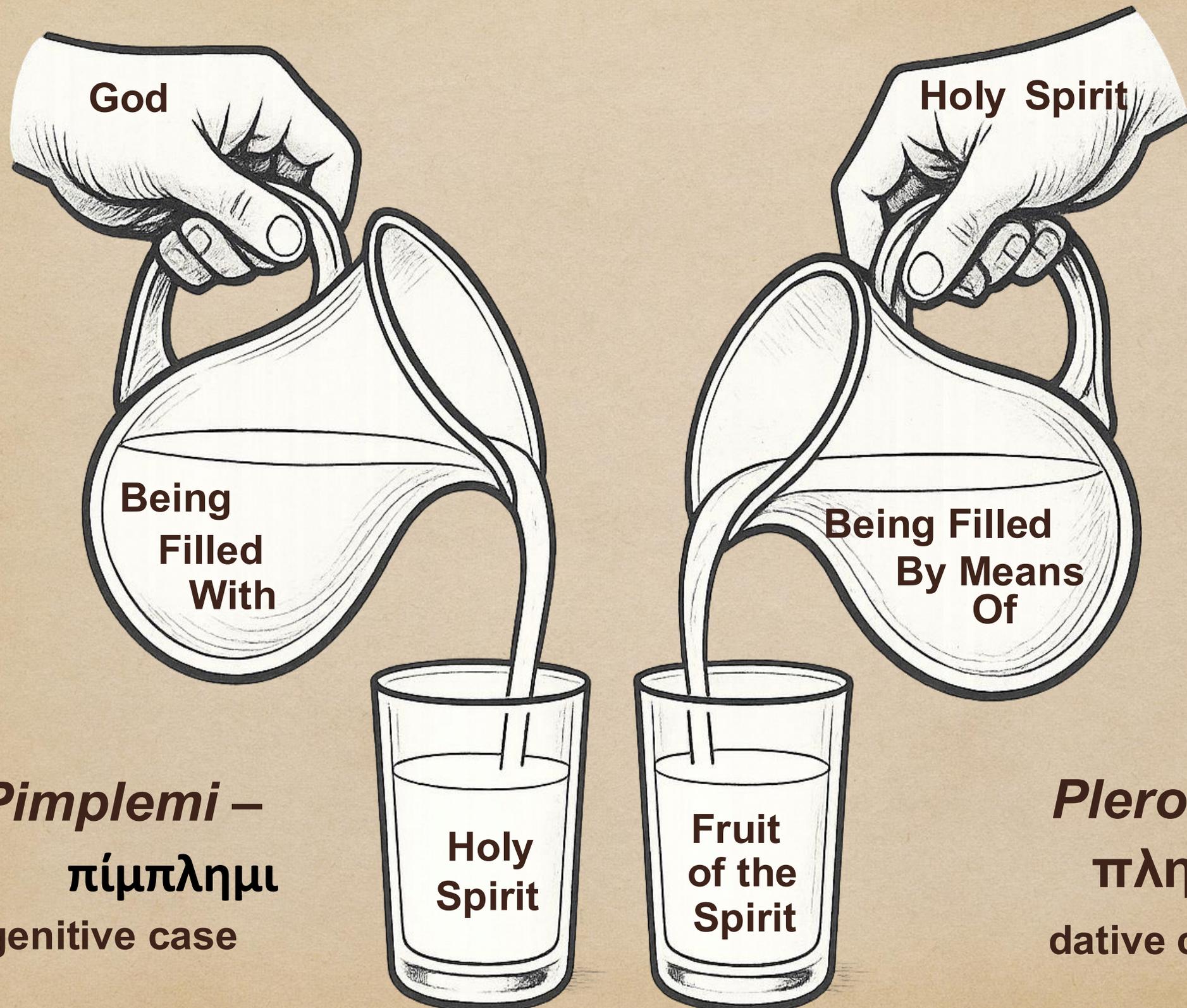
### 1. The Filling of The Holy Spirit

**-The first way:** we are filled **with** the Spirit.

**-The second way:** we are filled **by means of** the Spirit

-This can be illustrated by a man filling a glass with milk \*

# The Filling of the Holy Spirit



***Pimplemi*** –  
πίμπλημι  
genitive case

***Pleroo*** –  
πληρώω  
dative case



**The First Way:** Acts 2:4 "And they were all **filled with** the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

-to **fill with** - (ἐπλήσθησαν eplēsthēsan) root word (πίμπλημι - pimplēmi)

- **Spirit** - (πνεύματος - pneumatōs) root word (πνεῦμα - pneuma)  
**genitive case**

-Used the same way in Acts 4:8, 4:31, 7:55, 9:7, 11:24, 13:9, 13:52.

**\*The man is God - the glass is the believer - and the milk is the H.S.**

**The Second Way:** Eph 5:18 "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled **with** *[by means of] the Spirit. . .*" [italics mine]

-**by means of** - (πληροῦσθε - plērousthe) root word -  
(πλήρω - pleroō)

-**Spirit** - (ἐν πνεύματι - en pneumatī) **dative case** (en)

**\*The man is the H.S. - the glass is the believer - and the milk is the Fruit of the Spirit.**



-In the Acts passages the individual is filled **with the H.S.** and is always tied to something spoken, written, or performed.

-In the Ephesians passage we are **not filled with the H.S.**, but the H.S. fills us with the Fruit of the Spirit resulting in spiritual growth and maturity.

-This spiritual growth in Ephesians is shown in our:

1. Worship through singing (5:19)
2. Gratitude toward God (5:20)
3. Living in harmony (5:21)

-This is also seen in Gal 6:16 **But I say, walk by [by means of] the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** [italics mine]

-Which results in the "Fruit of the Spirit" describing our walk.

**-Not by keeping a bunch of rules or working, but by faith**

## 2. Christ Formed in You - by means of the Holy Spirit

-While chapters five and six contain extensive practical applications, observe how prominently the H.S.'s ministry shapes every aspect of those applications."



3:2-5 <sup>2</sup> did you receive the **Spirit** by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? . . . <sup>5</sup> 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?

3:27 For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ (*baptism of the Spirit*) have clothed yourselves with Christ.

4:6 God has sent forth the **Spirit** of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!

5:5 <sup>5</sup> For we through the **Spirit**, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

5:16 But I say, walk by the **Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

5:18 But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not under the Law.

5:22,23 <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



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

6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are **spiritual** (*Spirit led*), restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the **Spirit** will from the **Spirit** reap eternal life.

-Paul's desire was to be with the Galatians once again and see **Christ formed in them**.

-Our 'Position in Christ' is secure but our daily walk is dependent on our faith in the H.S.'s ministry. Our Condition. The flesh or the Spirit.

“Will we try to live the Christian life by self-effort and rule-keeping, like the Galatians, or will we allow **Christ to be formed in us** as we grow and mature under the ministry of the H.S.?”

**If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**



# Galatians

## From Blessing to Bondage

Part 2

Gal 4:15-20

