

GALATIANS



Grounded in the Gospel & Grace





“The Faith of Fools”

—

Pastor Brendon Witte





Gospel Definition

“The holy Creator, God, who was confronted with man’s rebellion and sin, has chosen in love to become the Redeemer and Restorer of man to God and God’s purposes, made possible by grace through faith and surrender to the crucified, risen King, Jesus.”



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“We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified” (Galatians 2:15-16).



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“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).





Paul Rebukes the Galatians (v. 1)

—

“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.”





Paul Interrogates the Galatians (v. 2-5)

Paul's questions bring light to three blessings of the Spirit that were received by faith not by works:

1. **Conversion by the Spirit**
2. **Sanctification by the Spirit**
3. **Miraculous Signs of the Spirit**





A. Conversion by the Spirit (v. 2)

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“Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?”





A. Conversion by the Spirit (v. 2)

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“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him”
(Romans 8:9).





A. Conversion by the Spirit (v. 2)

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“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:14-16).

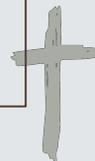




A. Conversion by the Spirit (v. 2)

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“And he [that is, Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name”
(Acts 10:42-43).



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“While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ‘Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 10:44-48).





B. Sanctification by the Spirit (vv. 3-4)

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“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?”

(Galatians 3:3-4)





Jay Adams, *A Theology of Christian Counseling* (36):
“**Sanctification consists of a gradual process (not an act [that is, not a one-time act]) by which the Spirit enables the believer both to put off sinful patterns of life and replace them with holy ones.**”

The goal of this process, according to the theologian, Millard Erickson, is real holiness expressed in “**bearing the actual likeness of God**” (*Christian Theology*, 980).



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“You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

“...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:22-24).

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).





C. Miraculous Signs of the Spirit (v. 5)

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“Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?” (Galatians 3:3-4)





C. Miraculous Signs of the Spirit (v. 5)

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“This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will” (Hebrews 2:3b-4).





Paul Reminds the Galatians (v. 6)

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“Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—**just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness’?**”

(Galatians 3:6)



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“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: ‘Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.’ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: ‘This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.’ And he brought him outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:1-6).





Take-Away Points (TAPs)

1. Evaluate yourself! Do you see the Spirit at work in your life?
2. Don't rely on our works to earn the favor of God. You have all the favor of God that you will ever have right now!

