

## **Gospel Blessing**

### **Galatians 3:1-9**

**Main Idea: Having begun our life with God through faith in Jesus, let us live our new life by faith! The path to spiritual growth is not paved with the stones of our efforts to obey the Law, but with our walking by faith in the Spirit.**

### **The Deception of Legalism**

*But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them," (Acts 15:1-2 [ESV](#))*

Legalism is a misuse God's good and perfect Law. Legalism relies on the Law instead of Jesus to be accepted as righteous by God. Legalism relies on the Law instead of the Holy Spirit to become righteous in our daily lives. Legalism destroys both the truth about our justification and about our sanctification.

Truth: The Law cannot be mixed with the Gospel to accomplish the miracle we need.

Application: If we have heard and received the true Gospel, God holds us responsible for what we give their ears to hear and our hearts to believe. Receiving false teaching is not a sign of open mindedness, it is a symptom of rebellion against the Lord.

Truth: If we live life by looking to the Law to help us live a righteous law, then sin will be our Master. Thank God we are not under law, but under grace!

### **The Reception of the Holy Spirit**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, . . . You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17 [ESV](#))*

*And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38 [ESV](#))*

*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. (Acts 10:44-48 [ESV](#))*

Truth: The presence of the Holy Spirit in the soul is the believer's most clear evidence of God's salvation.

*"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," (Romans 8:16 [ESV](#))*

*“By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” (1 John 4:13 [ESV](#))*

### **The Sanctification by the Holy Spirit**

*“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 [ESV](#))*

Truth: We are foolish to believe that we are justified by the Spirit’s gracious work in us, and yet sanctified by our own effort to obey God’s Law. Our ability to grow in true holiness does not flow from our efforts, but from our active dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,” (Colossians 2:6-7 [ESV](#))*

*“Run, John, run, the law commands,  
But gives us neither feet nor hands;  
Far better news the gospel brings:  
It bids us fly and gives us wings.”  
—John Berridge (1716-1793)*

What is biblical faith?

Faith is not doctrinal affirmation.

Faith is not hoping something good will happen in the future.

Faith is not a past decision.

Faith is not reciting a prayer.

Faith is not a striving for spiritual accomplishment.

Faith is not fatalistically accepting hard trials.

Faith is not embracing passivity and inactivity.

Faith is an active and personal reliance on God to do what He promises He will do.

Faith is an active and personal grasping on to God in confidence.

Faith is an active, personal entrusting of our life into Jesus’ hands.

Faith is an active, personal coming to Jesus to receive His love and sufficient provision.

Faith is an active, personal turning from sin in repentance.

Faith is an active, personal dependence upon the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of true righteousness in us.