

## TODAY'S VERSES:

Galatians 3:1-5

Galatians 1:6

Galatians 2:21

John 14:16

2 Corinthians 3:17

Ephesians 1:18

THIS WEEK, I WANT TO FOCUS ON THIS TRUTH OF  
WHAT JESUS HAS DONE, IS DOING, WILL DO...

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## MY NOTES:

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THE SPIRIT'S POWER  
GALATIANS 3:1-5

# Galatians

TO THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA

WEEK TEN |



# Galatians

TO THE  
CHURCHES  
IN GALATIA

## THE SPIRIT'S POWER GALATIANS 3:1-5

How we live the Christian life is a topic of endless books, seminars, camps, and conferences; in Galatians Paul speaks of living in the Spirit's power. When he speaks of the Spirit's power, he is referring to God the Holy Spirit and the restored relationship that is provided in Christ. When understanding the truth of the Gospel we have a real and supernatural power to live for Christ in real ways.

- **Identify your growth and life changes you have experienced. Do you credit God and His work through His Spirit in your life?**

We have been offered forgiveness, grace, ever-increasing joy, the fullness of life now and into eternity with the Creator of the universe, but we often fail miserably at our own life. This can happen 2 ways:

- **Thinking we can earn our righteousness before God on our own.** We fail to realize our righteousness is not in our deeds, our righteousness in Christ alone.
- **Thinking we don't NEED a righteousness before God.** Many people today live lives trying to find their inner happiness and fulfillment, they become their own means to satisfaction.

Paul says both approaches are foolish.

- **In what ways have you been foolish in either or both of these areas?**
- **How is it psychosis believing that our own righteousness will (or can) save us?**

Many people go to church thinking that if they can encounter God their spirituality will increase and help them simply "feel better." Paul addresses this mentality with: *Gal 3:1-3...It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*

Paul teaches us that we can **receive the Spirit**. The word Spirit here is capitalized because Paul is trying to get across that the Holy Spirit is not an "it," the Holy Spirit is a "He." He is God and He becomes, as one writer says, the "divine resident of the Christian's heart."

WEEK TEN

- **Who is the Spirit?**
- **What does it mean to receive the Spirit?**
- **Describe in your own words what you think the author meant by the Spirit being the "divine resident of the Christian's heart."**

J.I. Packer says that an understanding of the Spirit should "*melt us with spiritual understandings of the glory that has come to us.*" The Bible says that if you are a Christian, you have received the Spirit, there is a restored relationship with God and the Spirit now resides in us. Paul essentially says: **unless you receive the Spirit you are not a Christian.** *Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?* Having begun with the Spirit means that unless you have the Spirit, you haven't even begun the Christian life.

Read Galatians 3:1-5

- **Do you spend time getting to know the One who lives within you?**
- **How does society and the church pressure us to move away from the truth found in Galatians 3?**
- **Who's someone you know that has clearly been changed by Christ?**

Paul did not give the Galatian churches a series of rules and regulations, he told them a story, the Gospel, so that their eyes were enlightened. Paul says, "by the Spirit of God" the story of Jesus sinks in. John Stott once commented on Galatians 3:1 that Paul does not bring advice *from* Jesus but brings news about Jesus.

- **How has the Spirit used your love for Jesus and His love for you to transform you?**
- **What work of the Spirit can you point to and rejoice about?**
- **How did that transformation happen?**

When Paul says, "**Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing?**" he does not mean we stop being obedient to God, it means we stop trusting the law to save us. Tim Keller writes, "You have not believed the story until you realize, 'I've been trying to complete myself, and Jesus has completed me.'"

- **What does it look like to live in God's power and grace?**
- **How is the Gospel the Spirit's instrument for transformation?**
- **Can you confidently say, "Jesus has completed me."?**
- **What is the impact of that confidence?**