

“Your Greatest Asset”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

Shortly after Paul planted the churches in the southern region of Galatia false teachers came in and taught that a person must not only believe in Jesus but also convert to Judaism in order to have eternal life. In other words, these false teachers taught people their righteousness was based on their works rather than the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Paul wrote in order to correct this false teaching and help the churches live in the freedom they found in Jesus.

After Paul shared with the Galatians about his public rebuke of Peter he turned his attention toward the Galatians. Just like Peter was fascinated with seeking the approval of the Jews while he was in Antioch, the Galatians also were consumed with their approval too. Paul was astonished that even after hearing and believing the Gospel by faith they had turned toward the idea that they must move on from faith and be perfected in the flesh. In other words, the Galatians had come to believe that they must obey the works of the Law in order to continue in the faith.

In order to challenge this, Paul asked the Galatians a series of questions. Each of these questions were meant to be answered from their experience at salvation. Paul’s point was to uncover the fact that the Galatians did not need to follow the works of the Law because they already were part of the people of God. The identifying mark of their inclusion in God’s family was the Holy Spirit; which they had received in the beginning.

Paul’s discussion about the Holy Spirit demonstrates for us that our greatest asset in the Christian life is not our ability to keep the Law, or our ability to impress others. Rather, our greatest asset is the Holy Spirit who sustains us to live the Christian life. When someone believes the Gospel, by faith, they receive the promised Holy Spirit Who is the guarantee of their inheritance of eternal life. But once we are saved, do we move on from faith to works? Absolutely not! Paul taught the Galatians that we finish the Christian life the way we start – by faith. And further, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in every believer, He sanctifies believers, and he sustains believers as they persevere in the Christian life through suffering.

If you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have been given the Holy Spirit. He is your greatest asset. As a follower of Jesus you now are part of God’s family – you are a child of the King! As you trust Jesus for everything in your life, He will sanctify you by His Spirit. That means that you please God as you trust Him. In other words, you are not called to try as hard as you can in order to avoid sin. Rather, you trust Jesus. When you trust Him you believe that violating His commands will damage and ruin you. Therefore, obedience to His commands flows from faith. Those who trust Jesus will obey Jesus.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine the sermon points below. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your only hope for eternal life? If so, then you’ve been given the greatest asset you could ever have – the Holy Spirit! He promises He will never leave you nor forsake you. He promises to teach you and lead you through life’s victories and sufferings. The very One that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you and will work mighty and miraculously in your life!

Message Outline

Through faith alone:

1. We Receive the Spirit. (1-2)
 - At conversion.
 - The sign that one belongs to the people of God.
 - He dwells in us.
 - The guarantee of our inheritance.
2. We are Sanctified by the Spirit. (3)
 - We finish the way we start – by faith!
 - We please God when we trust Him.
3. We Persevere in the Spirit. (4-5)
 - Through suffering.
 - Through His presence.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Galatians 3:1-5:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray for families who will attend the First Steps Child Dedication class in September as well as the Child Dedication Service in October.
- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.