



Liberated to Live Free in Christ

a study of Galatians

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Starting where you are

Galatians 3:1-14

- The BIG Idea: Justification by faith
- Works v. Faith (3:1-5)
- Abraham's Legacy (3:6-9)
- Liberation from the Law (3:10-14)

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The BIG Idea: Justification by Faith

- Justification by faith is an outcome of being saved by grace.
- Works-based faith (i.e., adherence to the Law as a means of salvation) contradicts the experience of salvation.
- Faith in Jesus identifies believers with the faith of Abraham.
- Redemption occurs through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

The Reformation formula: Saved by *grace* alone, by *faith* alone, in *Christ* alone, according to *Scripture* alone, to the *glory of God* alone.

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Arguments to prove that God saves sinners through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law:

Personal
3:1-5

Scriptural
3:6-14

Logical
3:15-29

Historical
4:1-11

Sentimental
4:12-18

Allegorical
4:19-31

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Works v. Faith (3:1-5)

Key word: *suffered* □ to be acted upon in a certain way (in this case for bad, or ill); also experienced.

□ A personal argument based on their Christian experience.

□ A lack of spiritual awareness promotes spiritual instability.

- Lack of clarity concerning one's salvation.
- Prone to negative external influence
- Lack of certainty concerning one's testimony.

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Works v. Faith (3:1-5 cont'd.)

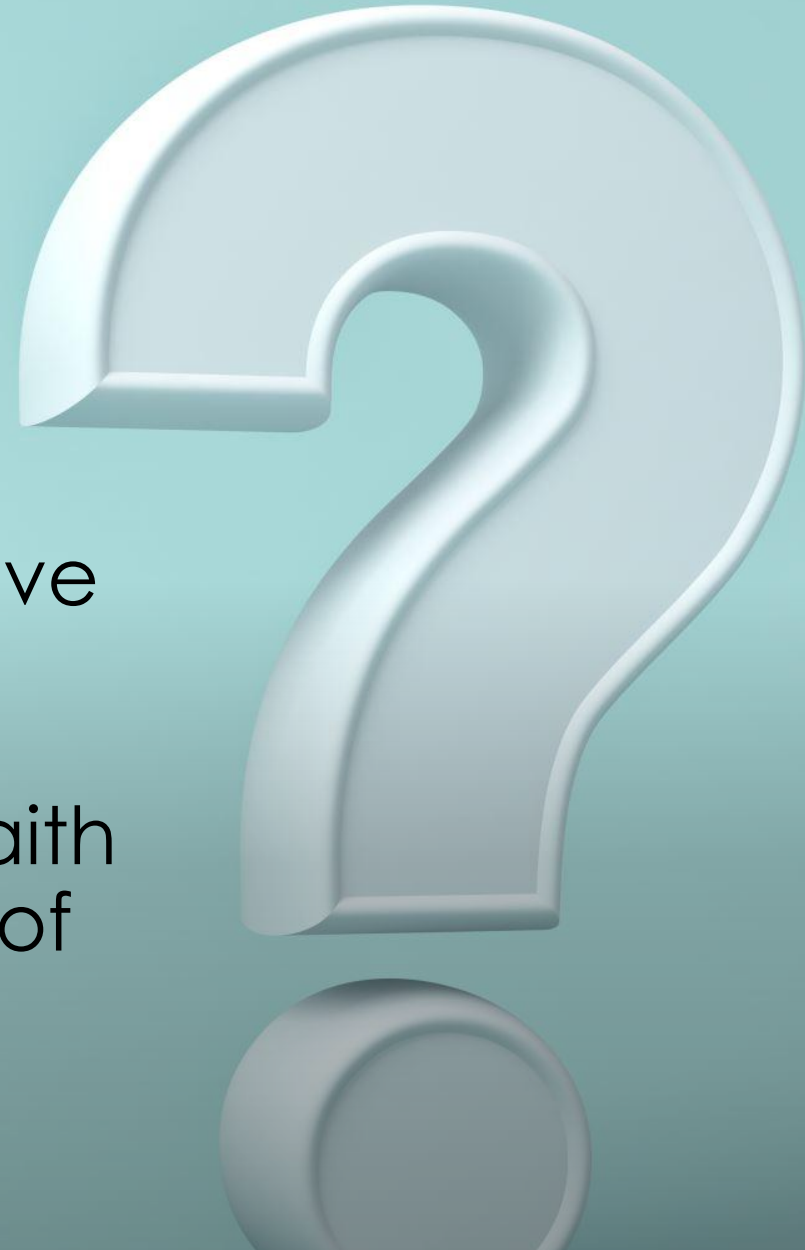
Paul's rhetorical questions and their effects:

1. Who stands to gain by preventing you from thinking for yourself?
2. How did you receive the Spirit?
3. Are you that spiritually dull?
4. Have works of the flesh perfected you where the Spirit could not?
5. Should your experience be discounted?
6. Has God performed miracles through the Law or the Spirit?

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Do you believe your faith is maintained by your ability or by God's grace? Why do you believe as you do?

What do the practices of your faith suggest about your experience of salvation?



Abraham's Legacy (3:6-9)

Abraham's faith (see Gen. 22:18)

- He believed God
- The bottom line of his faith was righteousness (justification)
- His faith was the genesis of relationship with God
 - Seed: the seed of his faith would produce fruit
 - Seed: the seed that would become his descendant, Jesus
- God forecast to him the message of the Gospel
- His faith is the standard to receive the blessing of faith—salvation.

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With Abraham's faith as your example, how would you describe salvation to your neighbor?



Liberation from the Law (3:10-14)

Jesus, our Blessed Redeemer (see Deut 21:22-23)

- The Law binds but Jesus redeems (10, 13)
- Jesus identified with the accursed so that the accursed can identify with Jesus (10, 13)
- The Law cannot justify by works, but Jesus justifies by faith (11)
- We live as we believe—whether by law or by faith—and receive the consequence or the blessing of our choice (12, 14)

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What are some ways that you used to (or still do) struggle to be free from justifying/proving your salvation by anything other than faith?



Questions

