

RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

GALATIANS 2

FOUR ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE POWER OF THE LAW TO SAVE:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW IS THREEFOLD:

- 1) _____ - to make us aware of our disobedience to God
- 2) _____ - to guide us into a right relationship with Jesus Christ
- 3) _____ - to free us from the bondage of performance

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

It means to _____ the unbearable weight, the weariness, and the unattainable standard that is required by _____ and to _____ the rest, the lightness and the freedom that comes from a _____ with Jesus Christ.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Matthew 11:28-30: "Then Jesus said, Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke (plan/ purpose) upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke (plan/purpose) fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

JESUS EXTENDS A FIVE-POINT INVITATION TO US:

#1 – COME TO _____.

Faith is a three-part process:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

***YOU ARE INVITED TO A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH J.C. WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?**

#2 – TAKE _____.

***GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE. ARE YOU WILLING TO FOLLOW THAT PLAN?**

#3 – LET ME _____.

LIVING LIFE WITH PURPOSE HAS FOUR IMPORTANT BENEFITS:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

***ARE YOU LIVING LIFE WITH PURPOSE TODAY? IS IT YOUR PURPOSE OR GOD'S?**

#4 – MY PLAN FOR YOU _____.

***DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE WILL FIT YOU PERFECTLY?**

#5 – MY _____ IS LIGHT ***DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE JUST SPINNING YOUR WHEELS TODAY AND GETTING NOWHERE?**

BEING MADE RIGHT WITH GOD IS A MATTER OF RELATIONSHIP, NOT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY!

Galatians: Exalting Jesus Lesson 5 Living Life with Power! Gal. 3:1-25 Scriptures 1

Galatians 3:1-6 “You *foolish* Galatians! Who has *bewitched* you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **V2** I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the *Spirit* by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? **V3** Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit are you now trying to finish *by means of the flesh*? **V4** Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? **V5** So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? **V6** So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Foolish refers not to inadequate intelligence but a lack of wisdom. Living by the world’s rules rather than according to God’s Word.

Bewitched “fascinated” or “hypnotized”. It means sorcerers and people who cast spells on others. Spirit is the Holy Spirit which is every believer’s most unmistakable proof of salvation and greatest guarantee of eternal glory. It comes at the moment of belief, not later, as a result of obedience. By **means of the flesh** the motivation of our hearts to seek being acceptable to God by our efforts.

Genesis 12:1-3 “The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. **v2** I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **V3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” These difficult commands from the Lord to Abram, were connected to extraordinary blessing. God’s blessing of Abram would be material and spiritual: His blessing of others would be spiritual.

Genesis 15:1-6 “After this the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: ‘*Do not be afraid*, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.’ **V2** But Abram said, ‘Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless ... **V3** And Abram said, ‘You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.’ **V4** Then the word of the LORD came to him; ‘This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.’ **v5** He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ **V6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.**’

Do not be afraid Fear comes when God’s people take their eyes off the One who promises and begins to worry about the promise. Abram needed to know that God was his shield and great reward—his Protector and Provider (Ps 7:10; 84:9). Abraham was justified by his faith, and the rite of circumcision was an act of obedience by a person who was already saved. There is only one way to enter into right standing with God, that is faith.

Hebrews 11: 33-40 Faith treats the things we hope for as a fact and places confidence today in what has been promised for the future. This is based on the unchangeable and perfect character of God. God’s promises will be fulfilled. For the unbeliever “Seeing is believing.” For the believer “Believing is seeing.” Faithful believers are commended. It is a divine approval of their faith, evidenced in their bold acts of trust, in the Lord. Only by faith can a person please God!

Galatians: Exalting Jesus Lesson 5 Living Life with Power! Galatians 3:1-25 S1

1) God's promise shows us the necessity for faith. **Galatians 1-6.** Read them on your Scripture page. Paul's upset. Why? He asks specific questions of the believers;

"Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law? or by believing what you heard?

"After beginning by means of the _____ are you now trying to finish by means of the _____?"

What is Paul trying to challenge the believers to think about? He is trying to get the believers to return to the true foundation of their faith: _____ alone. Receiving the Spirit is the true mark of belonging to God. No other deed or _____ of our own can accomplish this.

2) **By Grace alone God blesses His people.** Paul speaks of Abraham the father of God's people v6. Why is this important to what Paul is saying? As we read **Genesis 12:1-3** we see how God's people of faith began to take shape! Abraham had been justified (made righteous before God), in exactly the way Paul was declaring to these believers. *Faith is not a _____ that makes one righteous, but by faith we are united with _____, who is our righteousness.* Just like Abraham, we are counted as righteous, by believing _____. (Genesis :1-6)

"Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness". (v6) Abraham did not receive righteousness by any works of his own. He _____ the Lord and the Lord credited his "belief," his "faith," as righteousness.

3) **God's grace is expressed in radical promises.** Abraham's offspring would be as the stars in the sky Abraham was 99 and Sarah would be 90 when the child arrived. The math is not promising!! But this was not about Abraham and Sarah; it was about _____, His Grace, and His _____.

4) **Through Faith Alone, God's People Receive His Blessings.** **Hebrews 11** In v4 it tells us that Abel's sacrifice was more acceptable to God than his brother Cain's. Why? *Due to his _____.*

Also, Enoch, Noah, Issac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, godly judges, kings, prophets, and *others received God's blessing through faith, not through what they _____.* When we receive His grace. In Hebrews, the author states, "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who _____ Him." v6.

Martin Luther said "Before those words broke upon my mind I hated God and was angry with him... But when, by the Spirit of God, I understood those words—"The just shall live by faith!" "The just shall live by faith"—then I felt born again like a new man: I entered through the open doors into the very Paradise of God". This is also true for ___, and all believers. Believing God and acting on that belief is a demonstration of _____. People who are saved by grace alone through faith alone don't sit back and indulge in sin and the ways of this world like everyone else. Why? Because they believe _____. Therefore, they also live by grace through faith. They know that God is _____, He is sufficient, and that _____ satisfies the longings of our hearts. **Go Tell It!**

5) **This faith was expressed in radical obedience.** In **Genesis 22** God told Abraham to sacrifice the _____ God promised. Abraham took his son and raised the knife to sacrifice him—God responds. **Vv 16-17** God gave Abraham the promise by grace, and he trusted the promise through faith. Faith =obedience. You trust God and do things that seem crazy to the _____, because you believe God.

Galatians: Exalting Jesus Lesson 5 Living Life with Power! Gal. 3:1-25 Scriptures 2

Galatians 3:10-14 “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’ **V11** Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ **v12** The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, ‘The person who does these things will live by them.’ **v13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written; ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’ **V14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”

Works of the law are under a curse The Judaizers *could not live up to God's law*, yet they would *not submit to His grace*. *Our only hope is to receive God's grace*. Only God can declare us just! To be justified or declared righteous before God, we must place our faith in Jesus and His sinless perfection, letting Him bear our rightful curse and be our righteousness. (**Deut. 21:23; Romans 8:3**) **Romans 5:20** “The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,” The abundance of grace available through the work of Christ far surpasses the quantity of Adam’s sin. *No one can out-sin God's infinite grace*.

Romans 7:12 “So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.” The law can reveal sin but cannot remove the sin it triggers.

Galatians 3:22-25 “But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. **V23** Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. **V24** So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. **v25** Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.” Paul’s words illustrate that *all of humanity is under the control of sin*. (**Rom 3:20; 7:7,9**) The law is like a straightedge to show us how crooked we are—highlighting our need for a Savior!

Galatians 3:16-18 “The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, *who is Christ*. **V17** What I mean is this; The law...does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. **v18** For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his *grace* gave it to Abraham through a promise.” The law was temporary, lasting from Moses until Christ. Inheritance comes by the promise, not the law.

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” *Every biblical teaching and prophecy must be accomplished*. **Romans 7:24-25** “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **V25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Just as eternal life is through Jesus Christ our Lord, escape from the flesh is through Him. (**1 Corinthians 15:57**)

Jesus dealt with the problems of sin, Satan, and self on the cross.

Galatians 3:26-29 Paul specifies the family of God: it reaches up to the throne of God in heaven, down into baptism of Christ, forever loved and accepted by Him, wide enough to bring natural enemies together, long enough to trace its ancestry to Abraham. **All who come to Christ by faith!**

Galatians: Exalting Jesus Lesson 5 Living Life with Power! Galatians 3:1-25 S2

6) **Galatians 3:10-14** God's Covenant with Moses shows us the uselessness (futility) of the flesh.

Paul's reference to the law is the commandments and requirements God gave to His people through Moses. There are moral laws, Ten Commandments; ceremonial laws as to how to worship, what sacrifices to make, what foods to eat or not ____, festivals to celebrate; It also included civil laws concerning punishments for crimes like murder and adultery. These moral, ceremonial, and civil laws form the law. Known as the Law of God.

In v10 Paul talks about what the law can't do: it can't bring life, salvation, nor make you righteous before God. One transgression _____ the entire law! _____ amount of work can save us—that would be salvation by works—only _____ can declare us just. (James 2:10).

7) The law shows us that we can't be perfect because the law exposes our sin. The law doesn't make us sinners but reveals that we are already sinners! It reveals the sinful heart in _____ of us. Why did God give the law? The _____ was given to make our transgressions (sin) obvious to us!

8) **We All Deserve the Wrath of God. Why then was the Law added? The Law intensifies our sin:** it was given to show __ the futility, weakness and inability of the flesh. The flesh refers to the sinful nature ____ us. This is our nature apart ____ Christ. The flesh says "I am the authority in my life. I know what's best, I do what I want to do, and don't tell me any different!" Adam and Eve did this. The law was added "because of transgressions" (sin) **Romans 5:20**. The law isn't sinful but is "holy and just and good" **Romans 7:12**. Our hearts, resisting the law grow harder, and harder apart from _____ grace by this knowledge we might be humbled, terrified, and repentant, seeking God. 22-25

9) **God's Covenant through Christ Fulfills "Law of Moses" and Completes the Promise to Abraham**
Galatians 3:15-18 When God made His covenant with Abraham, He also made it with His seed. (Gen 12:1-3) The seed that came from Abraham was Jesus Christ. Why? Because God wanted to reach the whole _____, not through mere human descent but through the God-Man, _____. The **Mosaic Law was given until Christ came.** (Matthew 5:17) Christ obeyed the Law of God for ___, which was crucial for His work for our salvation. The perfect sacrifice for our sins. He endured the wrath of God instead of ___. **Vv13-14.** He hung on a tree, cursed by God, for ___. He shed His blood and endured God's wrath and condemnation for ___. (**Romans 7:24-25**) Jesus completes the promise to Abraham. He is the _____ to which the promise pointed. Through grace alone, He gives salvation to ___, full and free! Through faith alone we receive God's Spirit in ___. The same way Abraham did. Having the Holy Spirit changes everything! We actually have the living presence of Christ in _____. **vv23-29.**

LIVING LIFE WITH POWER:

KEY #1 We find God's power when we focus on the crucified Christ! 1) His crucifixion was enough to pay our debt completely! 2) It reveals God's love for us!

KEY #2 God's power is all about God. Not us! We can't finish what we didn't start. Our power in living is found in God. Not us!

KEY #3 – OPTIMUM USE OF GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES REQUIRES INSTRUCTION!

- Life is God's classroom of learning.
- Each life experience we face is a test.
- God never wastes a chance for us to learn.
- God's ultimate desire is for us to grow into men & women who accurately reflect God's character.
- The learning will continue until we reach heaven.

DO YOU HAVE A TEACHABLE SPIRIT? YOU ARE NOT NEAR AS SMART AS YOU THINK!

KEY #4 – GOD'S POWER IS UNLEASHED BY HIS SPIRIT IN US!

- Holy Spirit = God's presence in our lives.
- Purpose of the Holy Spirit? The Spirit of God works through us to produce God-sized results that we could never dream of accomplishing on our own.

HOW TO KNOW WHEN GOD'S SPIRIT IS LEADING IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1) **A SPIRIT-LED LIFE IS FOCUSED ON CHRIST, NOT SELF**
- 2) **A SPIRIT-LED LIFE IS SURRENDERED TO CHRIST, NOT SELF**
- 3) **A SPIRIT-LED LIFE IS DETERMINED TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF CHRIST, NOT SELF**
- 4) **A SPIRIT-LED LIFE IS HUMBLED AND SUBMISSIVE TO CHRIST, NOT SELF**
- 5) **A SPIRIT-LED LIFE IS A DAILY LIFESTYLE, NOT JUST A ONCE-IN-A-WHILE LIFESTYLE**

ARE YOU LIVING A SPIRIT-LED LIFE OR A SELF-LED LIFE? POWER VS. WEAKNESS

Key #5 – GOD'S POWER IS PROVEN!

GOD'S POWER SOURCE HAS BEEN WORKING TO PERFECTION FOR CENTURIES.

IE: Abraham's FAITH (belief, action & trust) that created a right relationship with God.

ARE YOU LIVING A LIFE THAT IS PROVEN OR A LIFE THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO PROVE? IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!

Key #6 – FAILURE IS DEFINED AS LIVING LIFE ON YOUR OWN EFFORT.

FAILURE is refusing to live according to a PROVEN STANDARD for POWER LIVING.

GOD WROTE THE BOOK ON LIVING WITH POWER, HIS STANDARD IS PROVEN!

Key # 7 - GOD HAS A PERFECT PLAN FOR YOU!

It is a matter of "embracing what God arranges for you..."

POWER COMES TO US WHEN WE TRUST GOD WITH EVERY AREA OF OUR LIVES.
IF GOD'S POWER IS PROVEN, WHY WOULDN'T YOU TRUST IT?

HOW TO APPLY THIS LESSON

1. **A FIXED FOCUS ON THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST CREATES AWESOME OVERCOMING POWER.**
GOD'S OVERCOMING POWER WILL ALLOW YOU TO OVERCOME ANY PROBLEM YOU FACE TODAY.
2. **GOD'S POWER FREES YOU TO SIMPLY BE YOU!**
BEING WHO GOD MADE YOU TO BE IS A MAJOR SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS.
3. **ONLY GOD CAN INSTRUCT YOU ON HOW TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM POWER IN LIFE!**
THE KEY TO UNLEASHING GOD'S POWER IN YOUR LIFE IS A TEACHABLE SPIRIT.
4. **GOD IS INTERESTED IN THE GOD-SIZED THINGS THAT HE CAN DO THROUGH YOU!**
GOD DOES GOD-SIZED THINGS IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE ARE SPIRIT-LED.
5. **GOD'S POWER IS PROVEN & GUARANTEED!**
IF IT WORKED FOR ABRAHAM, DAVID, MOSES, NOAH, SOLOMON, RUTH, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH ETC...IT WILL WORK FOR YOU!
6. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS TODAY; A LIFE OF FAILURE ON YOUR OWN EFFORT OR A LIFE OF POWER WITH GOD.**
7. **GOD IS A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER WHO WANTS ONLY WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, EMBRACE HIS PLAN.**
(MATTHEW 7:7-11)

WHY JESUS CAME ♦ John 6:38-40

In a dozen or so statements within the Gospels, Jesus expressed something about His mission – a mission far different from what the Jews expected of the Messiah.

Approximately half of these purpose statements appear in John's Gospel.

Jesus said, "I have come..."

- "in my Father's name" (5:43)
- "not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me" (6:38)
- "for judgment...so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind" (9:39)
- "that they may have life, and have it to the full" (10:10)
- "into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness" (12:46)
- "to testify the truth" (18:37)

Jesus further explained His purpose in the other Gospels:

- "to call...sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32)
- "to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'" (Matt. 10:35)
- "so I can preach" (Mark 1:38)

1 Corinthians 15:56-57:

"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God!

He gives the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."