

Galatians 3

1 You foolish Galatians,

who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

John 3:5–8

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 6:44

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Titus 3:4–5

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,

5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Bringing the quickening and sustaining breath of God to the cold, dead heart of the believer is the dominant ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Beginning with Jesus' teaching in John 14-16 and throughout the remainder of the New Testament, the revelation, ministry, and role of the Holy Spirit takes center stage.

The rapid expansion of Christianity that has swept across the world since is directly connected to this global "wind."

The Holy Spirit blows where He wills — and in His wake, pockets of believers are birthed into the Kingdom of God.

And Paul knew this from personal experience

The Holy Spirit, using the biblical message of the Cross, "awakens in man that deeply hidden awareness of guilt. He convinces man of sin, even where previously no consciousness of sin was apparently present. The Holy Spirit uses the word of the preacher and touches the heart of the hearer, making it accessible to the word."

When the Holy Spirit convinces people of their sin, of Jesus' righteousness, and of certain judgment, He awakens the human heart to hear and see truth in a new way. Upon seeing *and perceiving* the human heart cries out for God.

2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

Rabbit
Trail



There has to
be an object
to our faith
or it's kind
of
meaningless.

Faith

**The focal
point of
your
faith is
YOU.**

**Your
focal
point is
God.**

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe? All things are possible for one who believes.'"

Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Matthew 8:5–13

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help.

6 "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."

7 Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."

8 The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

**OUR FAITH HAS
TO BE
ANCHORED TO
WHAT GOD HAS
SAID OR
PROMISED.**

**WE THINK
FAITH MEANS
- I JUST
BELIEVE AND
WHAT I
BELIEVE FOR
WILL HAPPEN**

**Our faith
has to be
attached
to God and
His will.**

Surrender

Luke 14:

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,

30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Psalm 91:1-7

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

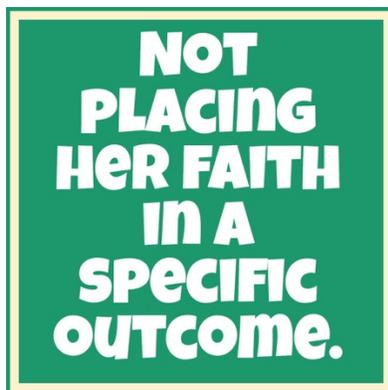
3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.



What does it mean to dwell in the shelter of the most high to dwell under the shadow of the almighty? Does it mean that the Christian is exempt from suffering? Does it mean that we have a guarantee of physical protection or that we are exempt from the ordinary woes of the human race?

If I believed that I'd probably be in some kind of a padded cell by now because if my faith had rested on some superficial notion that Christians have 75 percent fewer cavities...

We know that the safety and the protection that God promises to those who love him is of a wholly different nature than the merely physical.

Don't misunderstand me of course I believe god can protect us from anything or any kind of physical danger, snares and tempests and snakes and everything else. God did protect Valerie and me from snake bites. We were living all the time with the threat of snakes and we saw many people die.

They were not exempt but God did protect us from those snakes and you can imagine how many times I prayed as I would see Valerie go off in the jungle trails as a little toddler with the Indians/

I knew that there was no way that I could protect her even if I were with her and there was no way that the Indians could protect her.

So living in that situation I simply had to trust God to do that and He did it. I know that God can but I will not stand here tonight and tell you that God is going to protect you from physical troubles.

I'm not going to tell you that God is going to pay all your debts or heal all your diseases or sort out all your marital difficulties.

God can do any of those things but God has other things in mind than what we have. His protection is a guarantee on a different level altogether.

My message could never be of temporal blessings without disaster - my husband Jim was killed by the Indians my second husband died of cancer.

What I am learning is to dwell in that refuge - to live under the shadow of the almighty.

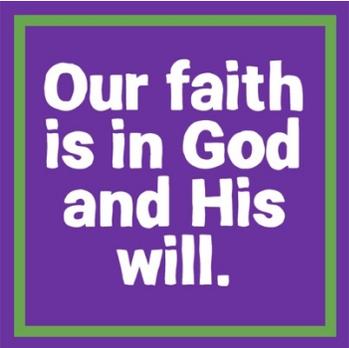
I can say with the apostle Paul **not that I know WHY God has done what He's done - **not that I** know exactly what it is that God is doing but I can say as Paul said that I know Whom I have believed and I am absolutely sure that he is able to keep what I have committed to him.**

When I was 12 or 14 I told the Lord that I was willing to be a missionary if that's what He wanted me to be and it was. When I was a junior in college He made it very clear that that was what He wanted me to do.

But when I put my life on the line and say "Lord here is my body as a living sacrifice do anything you want with it" there's no way for me to know what God is going to do.



**Our faith
isn't in a
specific
outcome the
way we
planned it
out.**



**Our faith
is in God
and His
will.**

**Our faith
isn't in a
specific
outcome the
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Romans 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Proverbs 3:5–6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 16:9

9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.



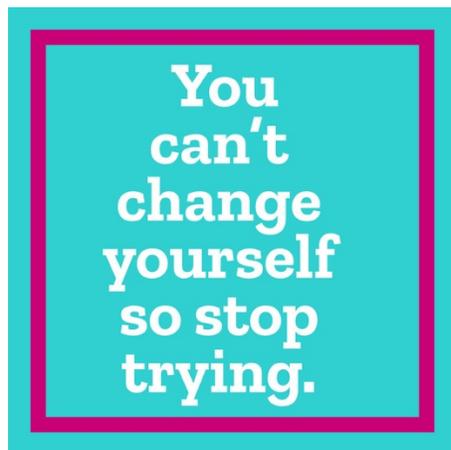
2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Ezekiel 36:26–27

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.



4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?

John Piper said this:

The essence of the Galatian heresy is the teaching that you begin the Christian life by faith, and then you grow in the Christian life by works, that is, by drawing on powers in yourself to make your contribution to salvation. One modern form of the heresy is: "God helps those who help themselves." ... Faith is the only response to God's Word which makes room for the Spirit to work in us and through us.

6 Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**Abraham didn't
DO things so
God would
accept him.**

**Abraham
BELIEVED God
and God
accepted him.**

7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."

9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

**The people
were hearing
his message,
but they were
not
changing.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

**8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.