

## Faith Alone: The Blessing of Believing

Galatians 3:1-9

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? <sup>2</sup> This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? <sup>4</sup> Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed *it was* in vain? <sup>5</sup> Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, *does He do it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— <sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” <sup>7</sup> Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” <sup>9</sup> So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

### I. Faith, Not Works, Is the Basis of Salvation (vv. 1–3)

#### A. Christ's Finished Work Is Sufficient

##### Supporting Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:8–9 – “ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- Titus 3:5 – “ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”

#### B. The Holy Spirit Is Received Through Faith

##### Supporting Scriptures:

- Acts 10:44–47 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

- Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

## **II. Faith, Not Human Effort, Sustains the Christian Life (vv. 3–5)**

### **A. The Christian Life Begins and Continues by the Spirit**

#### **Supporting Scriptures:**

- Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
- John 15:4–5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

### **B. God's Power Continues to Work Through Faith**

#### **Supporting Scriptures:**

- Zechariah 4:6 – “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.”
- Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

## **III. Faith Has Always Been God's Plan for Righteousness (vv. 6–9)**

### **A. Abraham Was Declared Righteous by Faith**

#### **Supporting Scriptures:**

- Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.
- Romans 4:1–5 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

### **B. Believers Share in Abraham's Blessing**

## Supporting Scriptures:

- Genesis 12:1–3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- Galatians 3:8–9 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

## Reflective Questions

1. Am I trusting in Christ alone for my acceptance before God, or am I relying on my own efforts and accomplishments?
2. In what areas of my Christian life have I begun depending on the flesh rather than the Holy Spirit?
3. How can I demonstrate Abraham-like faith this week by trusting God's promises even when circumstances seem uncertain?