

The Epistle to the Galatians
Lesson #7 • Galatians 3:1-5
“O Foolish Galatians!”

• H A N D O U T •

► This study begins in Chapter 3. Paul begins to lay down a solid foundation for defending the Gospel and concentrates on the truth that salvation is only by God's grace and not by the Law and the works of man.

Galatians 3:1 [NIV-NLT] • You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross.

Q: What two things does Paul call the Galatians and what is the meaning behind those words?

1.

2.

Q: Since the word “foolish” in Greek is such a strong, demeaning word, why would Paul use it?

► NOTE: Of the two Greek words that mean “foolish” Paul chose the second word **in his letter to Timothy:**

1 Timothy 6:9 • People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Q: Did Paul really think they were bewitched? Or, was Paul using hyperbole?

Q: Why does Paul compare his teaching to that of a picture of Jesus' death on the cross?

**So Paul begins to systematically reason with the people.
He asks them to start using their God-given intellect
and embrace again the righteous teaching they had received ...**

Galatians 3:2-3 • I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the Law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish?
After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Q: What is the answer to Paul's first question: *Did you receive the Spirit by observing the Law?*

Q: Paul asked if, instead of doing works of the law, did they actually receive the H.S. by "*believing what they heard.*" To what is Paul referring?

Q: Let's ask the same question Paul asks: How does one receive the indwelling Holy Spirit?

Q: How is receiving the Spirit connected with the Galatians' acts of foolishness?

Q: What conclusions can we make from Paul asking: "*after beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*"

Galatians 3:4-5 • Have you suffered so much for nothing – if it really was for nothing?
Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Q: There have been several references to miracles among the Gentile believers. What does this reference suggest to us?

For Example: Let's Look again at Peter's experience with the Gentiles at Cornelius' house:

Acts 11:15-17 • "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

When God gives His Spirit what are the various gifts which are made manifest to us?

1 Corinthians 12:7-11: Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

To one there is given, through the Spirit, the message of wisdom,
To another the message of knowledge, by means of the same Spirit,
To another faith, by the same Spirit,
To another gifts of healing, by that one Spirit,
To another miraculous powers,
To another prophecy,
To another distinguishing between spirits,
To another speaking in different kinds of tongues,
And to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.

Q: What is the suffering that Paul refers to in Galatians 3:4?

Q: Why would Paul ask if this suffering was really for nothing?

Q: Paul asks a similar question, first in verse 2 & then in verse 5, but using slightly different language with a different point of view. What are the two points of view?

Q: So ... what is the correct answer to Paul's question? Were the Galatians receiving God's Spirit and His miracles because they were observing the Law, or because they heard and received the Gospel through faith?

Q: On the day of Pentecost all of the Apostles, along with the other disciples, received the gift of the H.S. This became a mark of the Christ-followers. From that day forward these people were involved with mighty miraculous works. Why were the Jews shocked when the Galatians' believers had the same experience?

**Paul will go to the Old Testament to deal with this question.
This is where we will pick up our study next time.**



Next Time • Lesson #8

~~ Consider Abraham ~~

Galatians 3:6-9

