



Hearing with Faith v. Works of the Law

Galatians 3:1-5

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by 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? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—



Define Paul's Terms



Spirit: the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in believers

Flesh: the nature or carnal man

Faith: absolute confidence in the veracity (truthfulness) of someone or something promised

Works: obedience to the law in order to be found righteous

Law: the commandments of God given to Moses in the OT

Grace: favor/mercy from God that is not based on anything done



Galatians 3:1

- O foolish Galatians!
- Who has bewitched you?

O: you (emphatic)



Foolish: unwise, not understanding

Bewitched: cast a spell, hypnotized

**Paul knows who has deceived the
Galatians—it is the Judaizers!**



Let's try and relate this to a full-fledged member of BBC abandoning Berean and converting to Church of Latter Day Saints.

Paul is writing to them.



Galatians 3:1

- O foolish Galatians!
- Who has bewitched you?

Timothy George believes Paul was pointing directly to the devil.



The false teachers, those heretical interlopers, had sown confusion and doubt among the believers of Galatia, leading them to their present state of spiritual disarray. However, the “who” in Paul’s question is singular, suggesting that behind the work of the Galatian agitators was the devil himself, the father of lies who walks about as a roaring lion seeking someone to seize upon and devour (1 Pet 5:8).

Timothy George



Jesus identified the
evil one as interfering
with the salvation of
people in
Matthew 13.



Matthew 13:19

- When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is what was sown along the path.



1 Thessalonians 2:18

- because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—
but Satan hindered us.



Ephesians 6:12

- For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



Look @ the Rest

Of v. 1

Galatians 3:1

- O foolish Galatians!
Who has bewitched
you? **It was
before your eyes
that Jesus Christ
was publicly
portrayed as
crucified.**





**Paul is saying that the
Galatians saw Jesus crucified
with their own eyes.**

**They saw the Son of God put
to death on cross.**



Look back @

v. 21



Galatians 2:21

- I do not nullify the grace of God,
for if righteousness
were through the
law, **then Christ died
for no purpose.**



In Chapter 3

Paul is continuing his
exposition on faith.

Authentic Salvific Faith is



- A complete **confidence** that Jesus is who He said was—the Son of God
- An absolute **reliance** upon Jesus' righteousness for my personal righteousness before God
- Fully **trusting** in/depending upon Christ's substitutionary atoning death for my sins
- Demonstrated in a **commitment** to following Jesus as Lord

F.R.O.G.



Fully (not partially)

Relying (depending/trusting)

On (upon/in)

**God's Son, Jesus Christ, for my righteousness
now & at the final judgment.**

Paul's Point



Why would God put His Son through the pain, agony, horror, suffering, alienation, and death of a CROSS if righteousness could be obtained through keeping the law?



For most of us the closest we come to this is the Passion of Christ movie.



But some of the believers in Galatia saw Christ crucified.

They must have been Jews who were in Jerusalem for the Passover.

Imagine being an unbeliever and seeing Christ on the cross...

**And then learning that Jesus
Christ whom you saw crucified
died for your sins.**





Argument

#2



Galatians 3:2

- Let me ask you only this: **Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?**



**Works
of the
Law**

vs.

**Hearing
with
Faith**



Works of the Law

This is man's attempt (done in the flesh) to make himself righteous before God by keeping the Mosaic law of God.

Hearing with Faith

This is the “Aha!” moment (through the Spirit) when what you were hearing about Christ Jesus and the gospel became real to you and you believed the truth.

Note the word “hearing.”



Luke 8:15

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, **hearing the word, hold it fast** in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.



**If you have lost friends and family
your prayer must be to get them under the
preaching of the Word of God.**

Faith comes from hearing.

Romans 10:14

**And how are they to believe in him of
whom they have **never heard**? And how are they
to hear without someone preaching?**



Look @ v. 5

As Paul continues to make his point.



Galatians 3:5

- Does he [God] who **supplies the Spirit to you** and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or **by hearing with faith—**

Very Rhetorical!



Look Back @

Galatians 2:20



Galatians 2:20

- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, **but Christ who lives in me.** And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



How does Christ live in us?



Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit who is sent by the Father and the Son and given to believers as the guarantee of our salvation.

The Spirit is the same as God in essence and attributes and is perfectly aligned with the will of the Father to see His Son glorified such that the Spirit is also called the Spirit of God (Matt 3:16) and the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9).



Romans 8:9

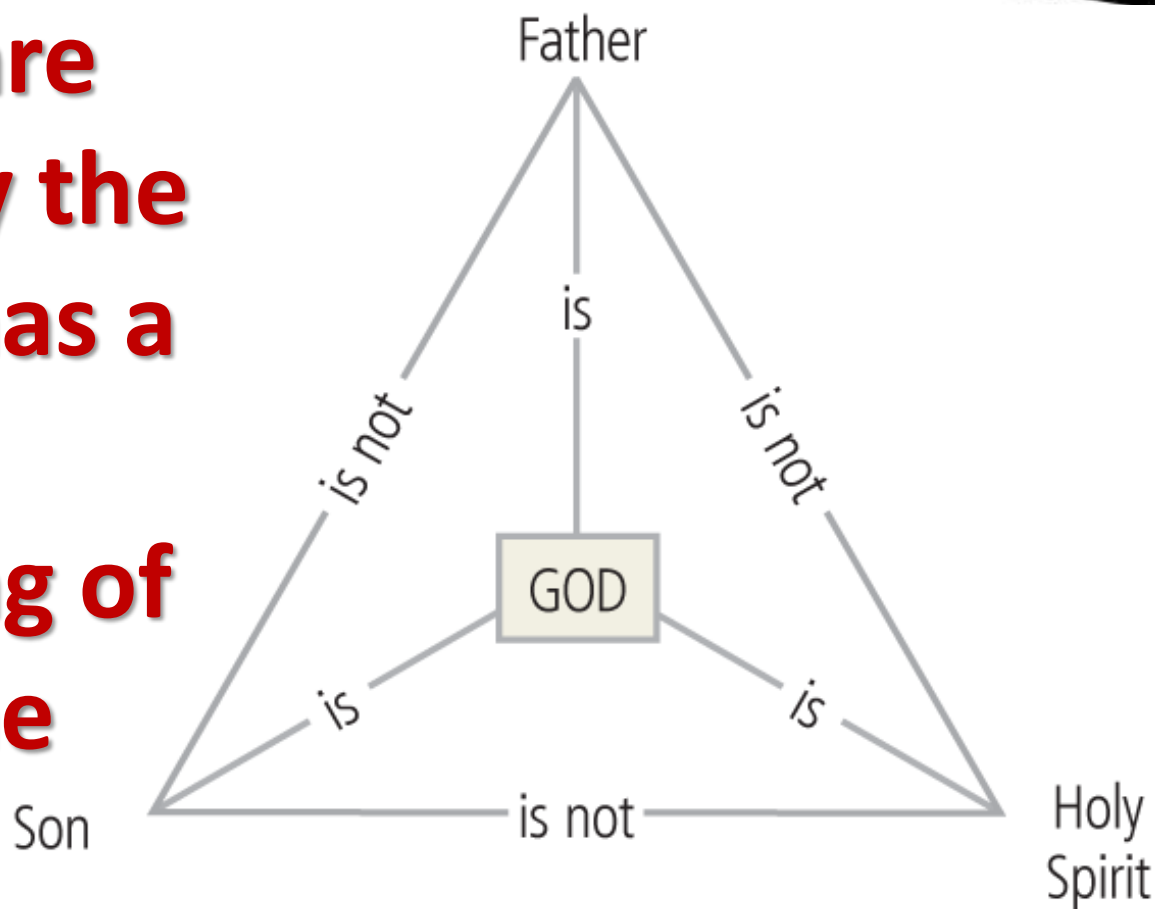
- You, however, are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if in fact the **Spirit of God** dwells in you.
- Anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.



Does the Spirit of God live in you?



**Verses like
Romans 8:9 are
precisely why the
true church has a
Trinitarian
understanding of
the God of the
Bible.**





Romans 8:16

- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,



Look @ v. 3

Begun



Galatians 3:3

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

The Holy Spirit



- 1.The Spirit convicts us of sin and our need for salvation.**
- 2.The Spirit confirms the truth of what we are hearing with our spirit.**
- 3.The Spirit creates within us a new heart able to believe the gospel.**

Notice what Paul says:



“Having begun by the [Holy] Spirit”

The Pentecostals are wrong about the necessity of a Baptism of the Holy Spirit post-salvation experience.

Every believer begins with the Holy Spirit.



Jesus lays this out

John 3:5-8



Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter 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 marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. **So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**”



Titus 3:5

- he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal** of the Holy Spirit,



Regeneration and Renewal

Regenerate

- spiritually reborn or converted

Renew

- to make new spiritually

(M-W)



Galatians 3:3

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

ἐπιτελέω *epiteleō*



KJV Translation Count — Total: 11x

The KJV translates Strong's G2005 in the following manner: perform (3x), perfect (2x), accomplish (2x), finish (1x), performance (1x), make (1x), do (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I.* to bring to an end, accomplish, perfect, execute, complete
 - A.* to take upon one's self
 - B.* to make an end for one's self
 - i.* to leave off

To the Galatians



If you began this new walk with the Lord in the Spirit, how can you even consider finishing it by the power of the flesh by doing the works of the law?

If it was God's grace that declared you righteous by faith, how would you even consider perfecting what God began in the flesh?



Philippians 1:6

- And I am sure of this, that **he [God] who began** a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Let's break this down



After being born-again (saved), Christians do NOT go back to striving to keep all the laws in the Bible to be found pleasing to God at the judgment.

Our motivation for obedience to the commandments of God is **LOVE NOT self-righteousness.**



1 John 5:3

- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.



Galatians 3:4

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



Paul must be referring to the suffering the Galatians experienced when they first became followers of Christ.

Now he is asking was that all in vain?



Since the beginning
interlopers having
always been trying
to change the
church.



First Anglican bishop of Liverpool, England.



(a) The first leading feature in Evangelical Religion is the absolute supremacy it assigns to Holy Scripture as the only rule of faith and practice, the only test of truth, and the only judge of controversy.



(b) The second leading feature in the Evangelical faith is the depth and prominence it assigns to the doctrine of human sinfulness and corruption.



Its theory is that, in consequence of Adam's fall, all men have, as far as possible, gone from original righteousness, and are of their own natures inclined to evil. They are not only in a miserable, pitiable, and bankrupt condition, but in a state of guilt, imminent danger, and condemnation before God. They are not only at enmity with their Maker, and have no title to heaven, but they have no will to serve their Maker, no love for their Maker, and no fitness for heaven. **We hold that a mighty spiritual disease like this requires mighty spiritual medicine for its cure.**



(c) The third leading feature of the Evangelical faith is the paramount importance it attaches to the work and office of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the nature of the salvation He has produced for man.

Christ & the Cross



Its theory is that the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, has, by His life, death, and resurrection, as our Representative and Substitute, **obtained a full salvation** for sinners, and a redemption from the guilt, power, and consequences, of sin, and that all who believe in Him are, even while they live, completely forgiven and justified from all things —reckoned completely righteous before God—and **are interested in Christ and all His benefits.**



(d) The fourth leading feature in the Evangelical faith is the high place it assigns to the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man.



Its theory is that the root and foundation of all vital Christianity in anyone is a work of grace in the heart, and that, until there is real experimental business within a man, his religion is a mere husk, and shell, and name, and form, and can neither comfort nor save.

We maintain that the things which need most to be pressed on men's attention are those mighty works of the Holy Spirit: inward repentance, inward faith, inward hope, inward hatred of sin, and inward love for God's law.



(e) The fifth and last leading feature in the Evangelical faith is the importance it attaches to the outward and visible work of the Holy Spirit in the life of man.

Its theory is that the true grace of God is a thing that will always make itself manifest in the conduct, behaviour, tastes, ways, choices and habits of him who has it. It is not a *dormant* thing, that can be within a man and not show itself outwardly.



Where the Spirit is, He will always make His presence known.



We hold that it is wrong to tell others that they are “children of God, and members of Christ, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven” unless they really overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. We maintain that to tell a man he is “born of God”, or regenerated, while he is living in carelessness and sin, it is a dangerous delusion, and calculated to do infinite mischief to his soul.



We affirm confidently that “fruit” is the only certain evidence of a man’s spiritual condition; that if we would know whose he is and whom he serves, we must look first at his life. Where there is the grace of the Spirit, there will be always, more or less, fruit of the Spirit.



Ryle's 5 Points

1. The Bible is Word of God.
2. **Man is a sinner in need of salvation.**
3. Jesus Christ God's Son died to save man from their sin and declare those who believe righteous.
4. **The Holy Spirit is God's agent of salvation doing the inward work of regeneration.**
5. The inward work of Holy Spirit always manifests itself in the outward transformation of the life of the believer.