

## Getting and Giving Grace

### 1. What was Paul describing in Galatians 3:1-5?

- A. Receiving the Spirit (vs. 2), beginning with the Spirit (vs. 3) and God providing/giving the Spirit (vs.5) refer to the moment of conversion to Christ, to the moment they were saved, the moment they heard and believed the gospel of grace. At the moment you repent and believe in Jesus the Holy Spirit baptizes you, indwells you and seals you. Jesus refers to as [spiritual](#) birth, being born again. (John 3:3)
1. The focus of Spirit baptism is [identification](#) of believer with Christ and His Church.
  2. The focus of Spirit indwelling is the Holy Spirit's personal [presence](#) within the believer.
  3. The focus of Spirit sealing is the [guarantee](#) that God will fulfill His promise, to fully and completely redeem the believer.
  4. All three ministries of the Holy Spirit happen at the [moment](#) of saving faith, by hearing with faith, by believing the gospel you heard.
- B. "By the works of the Law" (in verse 2 and 5) and "by the flesh" (in vs. 3) refer to physically keeping the Law of Moses, the Old Testament ceremonial rites, rituals and religious regulations. This is done by reliance upon, dependence upon, and performance by [me](#).
- C. The point Paul is making is:
1. Rhetorical question:  
Did you get saved (receive the HS) by trusting Jesus or by trusting in you being Jewish enough, religious enough, consistent enough, faithful enough, good enough, or anything else enough?  
Or to ask it another way:  
Did you get saved by faith in Jesus or by reliance upon [self](#)?
  2. The understood answer is: by [faith](#) in Jesus.
  3. The point: Jesus is all you need.
- 2. The crux of the issue is verse 3.**
- A. Salvation is a package deal involving justification, sanctification and glorification. How could you think that you begin it (get justified) by faith, then continue it (grow sanctified and get glorified) by merit, by self-performance? That's silly.
  - B. The Holy Spirit began Christ's work in you, so He will complete Christ's work in you some day. (Gal.3:3)
  - C. You do not need anything in [addition](#) to Jesus for your salvation (initial justification, ongoing sanctification, and ultimate glorification).
  - D. The way you think God looks at you, sets up the way you look at [others](#). What would it look like if the way God sees us, is the way we see others? What if the way God sees me and treats me is the way I see and treat others?

### 3. People today are asking:

- How can I get right with God?  
Does He accept me when I'm being religious enough, consistent enough, faithful enough, good enough, or anything else enough?  
How can I get to heaven?  
Will I make it if I'm good enough, sincere enough, or please God enough?

#### Our answer today is:

You don't need to be religious enough, consistent enough, faithful enough, good enough, or anything else enough because Jesus is enough. Jesus did enough for you, on your behalf. So embrace Jesus.

### 4. Then what do I make of all the imperatives in the NT that call me to holy living, to higher ground, to spiritual exercises? Like 1 Tim. 4:7-8?

- A. Spiritual exercises bless you, benefit you and equip you for godly living in this life...and your godly living will be remembered and rewarded in the next life.
- B. But not one spiritual exercise will make God love you more. And skipping or ignoring spiritual exercises will not make God love you less.  

When you are God's adopted child,  
He could not love you more, and He'll never love you less.
- C. You are His adopted child through your faith in Christ. Your pursuit of Him in everyday life grows out of your appreciation of His grace to you.  
Yours is a love-based relationship, a love-motivated obedience, not a performance-based relationship, not a fear-motivated obedience.

#### Message

Embrace grace, then flow it to others.

#### So what? Now What?

- Stop trying to be good enough for God. Just turn to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing and accept that the Father accepts you because you're in Jesus. Stop trying to [earn](#) grace. Just accept that He accepts you in Christ. Live free of striving to earn God's grace, His favor, His friendship.
- Imagine what it would look like for you to just embrace His grace. Imagine what it would look like for you to find your security in Him, and not in yourself, not in your [performance](#)...to rest in the fact that Jesus is enough because Jesus did enough for you, in your place.
- Truth be told, some of you are openly living in ways that Jesus does not like. Jesus does not like that behavior, but He loves you. He doesn't want that attitude, or that lifestyle, or that sin, but He always wants you to repent and come to Him for forgiveness and cleansing, for freedom from sin's grip.
- Embrace His grace and flow it to others.  
What would it look like if the way God sees me, is the way I see others?  
What if the way God sees me and treats me was the way I see and treat others? What if I saw and treated everyone as the image of God on earth?  
What if I looked at everyone as someone for whom Christ died?
- What if instead of being disgusted with *someone* because of what they do, I was disgusted at that *something* and saw that *someone* as who they are in God's eyes and as who they could become if they embrace God's grace.