

Galatians 3:2-5

2. 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?**

- **Romans 10:17** "So then _____ comes by _____, and _____ by the _____ of _____."
- **Acts 11:16-17** "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be _____ with the _____. If therefore God _____ the same _____ as He gave us when we _____ on the Lord _____, who was I that I could withstand God?'"
- **Acts 1:5 & 8** "For John truly _____ with water, but you shall be _____ with the _____ not many days from now." (Verse 8) "But you shall receive _____ when the _____ has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Definition: "Did you RECEIVE the SPIRIT by the WORKS of the LAW, or by the HEARING of FAITH?" - The answer is, of course, **they received the Spirit by the HEARING of FAITH.** If "the works of the Law" (trying to keep the commandments) could save a person or give them the Holy Spirit, then there would have been no need for Jesus to die on the cross, be resurrected, and go back to heaven, because He said He would send the Holy Spirit to be IN the believers after He left. Notice how several of these verses refer to **receiving the Holy Spirit as RECEIVING a GIFT** - "you shall **receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit**" (Acts 2:38) and "God gave them (speaking of the Gentiles) **the same GIFT as He gave us when we BELIEVED on the Lord Jesus Christ** (Acts 11:17). A gift is not something you earn, but **you just RECEIVE it gratefully.** Peter said the only thing the Jews in Jerusalem had to do **to receive this gift of the Holy Spirit** was to REPENT and BELIEVE in the name of Jesus Christ (telling them to be "baptized in His name" simply meant they had to make a PUBLIC declaration and commitment to Jesus Christ, not just be "secret" believers). For the Gentiles who first believed in Jesus in Acts chapter 11, **they RECEIVED the HOLY SPIRIT as they sat and listened to Peter preaching, as they BELIEVED in their HEARTS right then and there,** and they went out and got baptized in water later.

- **Acts 2:38** "Then Peter said to them, ' _____, and let every one of you be baptized in the _____ of _____ for the remission of sins; and you shall _____ the _____ of the _____.'"
- **Romans 8:15-16** "For you did not _____ the _____ of bondage again to _____, but you _____ the _____ of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, _____.' The _____ bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."
- **Acts 10:44-47** "While Peter was still _____ these words, the _____ fell upon _____ those who _____ the _____. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the _____ of the _____ had been poured out on the Gentiles also."
- **Acts 11:15-16** "And as I began to _____, the _____ fell upon them, as upon _____ at the _____. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be _____ with the _____.'"

Definition: "SPIRIT of ADOPTION" - ADOPTION had a different meaning to the Romans than it does for us. The Romans would have a ceremony when a child reached ADULTHOOD. This public ceremony declared that the child was officially an adult, with all the RIGHTS and PRIVILEGES of an ADULT, responsible for his own actions, and also that he was UNABLE TO BE DISINHERITED. **What does this mean for us? It means that we are BORN into God's family as a little BABY, but we are ADOPTED and given ADULT STANDING as well.** This POSITION IN CHRIST is ours for eternity, **we are UNABLE TO BE DISINHERITED.** Nothing or **NO ONE can take us away** or "snatch" us away from God once we are BORN and adopted into His FAMILY.

- **Ephesians 1:5** "Having predestined us to _____ as sons (children) by Jesus Christ to _____, according to the good pleasure of His will,"
- **John 10:27-29** "My Sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they _____ Me. And I give them _____, and they shall _____ perish; neither shall anyone _____ them out of My _____. My Father who has _____ them to Me, is greater than all; and _____ is able to snatch them out of My _____."

Definition: "By whom we cry out, 'ABBA, FATHER" - Abba means "Papa" or "Daddy" in the Aramaic language. This **INTIMATE relationship with God** is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit living in our heart. If you did not have a good relationship with your earthly father, you can now have a **WARM AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP with God** as the "Daddy" you never had.

- **Galatians 4:6** "And because you are _____, God has sent forth the _____ of His _____ into your _____, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

Definition: "SPIRIT of BONDAGE again to FEAR" - The Old Testament Law was BONDAGE, as is any kind of RELIGION that tells people they must BE GOOD ENOUGH for God to accept them (salvation by WORKS). **This produces FEAR**, because we KNOW we can **NEVER be GOOD ENOUGH.**

- **Galatians 3:10** "For as many as are of the _____ of the _____ are under the _____; for it is written, '_____ is everyone who does NOT _____ in all things which are written in the book of the _____, to _____ them.'"

Definition: "The HOLY SPIRIT fell upon THEM, as upon US at the BEGINNING" - God used dramatic means to show how the Holy Spirit was being **given to believers "at the beginning."** "The beginning" means the Day of Pentecost, and for the "beginning" or **first time** the Holy Spirit was given to certain groups of people, such as the Samaritans and the Gentiles. After that, we don't see any mention in the word of God of the Holy Spirit being given in a dramatic way, with rushing winds or speaking in tongues, it is just assumed that **ALL BELIEVERS have the Holy Spirit from the moment of their accepting and believing in Jesus Christ. What does the BIBLE SAY is necessary for a person to receive the Holy Spirit? FAITH in JESUS CHRIST!** "He who believes in Me" (John 7:38-39); "whoever confesses Jesus is the Son of God" (I John 4:13-15); "having believed in Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:12-14); "through FAITH in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26 & 4:6). But what about verses in the Bible that say to "ask God for the Holy Spirit" or to "wait for the Holy Spirit"? People get in trouble and come up with all sorts of wrong doctrines because they do not **take scripture in its context!** All of the verses that say to "ask for the Spirit" or "wait for the Spirit" are when Jesus was talking to His disciples BEFORE Pentecost! The Day of Pentecost was when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in ALL BELIEVERS, and now it happens automatically when a person is saved. We don't have to wait, and we don't

have to ask for the Holy Spirit to come to live in us. The Holy Spirit is actually the One who gives us life and causes us to be born again (in John 3:6 **Jesus calls it being "born of the Spirit"**).

- **Luke 11:13** "If you, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly _____ give the _____ to those who ask Him?"
- **Acts 1:4** "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to _____ for the _____ of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have _____ from _____; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be _____ with the _____ not many days from now (speaking of Pentecost).'"
- **John 14:16-17** "And I will pray the Father, and He will _____ you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the _____ of truth (Holy Spirit), whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and _____ be _____."

Definition: "He dwells WITH you, and will be IN YOU" - Jesus is speaking here to the disciples at the Last Supper, **BEFORE He has gone to the cross, BEFORE His resurrection, and BEFORE the Day of Pentecost.** At this time, the Holy Spirit was only WITH the disciples, but **after the Day of Pentecost came, the Holy Spirit would be IN all Believers in Jesus.**

- **John 7:38-39** Jesus said, "He who _____ in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his _____ will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the _____, whom those believing in Him _____; for the _____ was _____ yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

Definition: "JESUS was NOT yet GLORIFIED" - Jesus was speaking about His death and resurrection, which at this point, was yet in the future. **On the Day of Pentecost, AFTER Jesus was "glorified" by His resurrection** and ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit was GIVEN and continues to be given to ALL WHO BELIEVE in Him.

- **John 16:13** "However, when _____, the _____ of _____, has come, _____ will _____ you into all _____; for _____ will not speak on His own authority, but whatever _____ hears _____ will speak; and _____ will tell you things to come."
- **John 14:25-26** "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the _____, the _____, whom the Father will send in My name, He will _____ you all _____, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

3-5. Are you so foolish? **Having BEGUN in the SPIRIT, are you now being MADE PERFECT by the FLESH?** Have you suffered so many things in vain - if indeed it was in vain? 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?** -

- **Hebrews 13:20-21** "Now may the _____ of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, _____ you complete (perfect) in every good work to do His _____, _____ in _____ what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen."

- **Philippians 2:12-13** "Therefore my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is _____ who _____ in _____ both to _____ and to _____ for His good pleasure."

Definition: "Having BEGUN in the SPIRIT, are you now being MADE PERFECT by the FLESH?" - The answer to Paul's question is, "No, the flesh is not going to continue the work begun by the Holy Spirit." How foolish of anyone to think that God needs our help in **doing the work of salvation and sanctification**. Sanctification is a big word for **"being MADE PERFECT"**, and it also means HOLINESS, PURITY, being SET APART for God and His use. The word "SAINT" comes from the same word as "sanctified" in the Greek. Sanctification is BOTH a PROCESS and a ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE. We are sanctified, or MADE HOLY in God's sight when we accept Jesus Christ as Savior, but **our continual SANCTIFICATION and "being MADE PERFECT" is the PROCESS by which we are becoming MORE LIKE CHRIST** as we YIELD more and more of our SELVES to the control of the Holy Spirit. So, we see from the word of God that it is the Spirit, God Himself, who continues to work in us and bring us to perfection in Christ. **What a wonderful, COMFORTING thing to know that God Himself is at work in each true Christian to carry out His will and good pleasure in our lives.** Philippians 1:6 says that God began a "good work" in you when you first got saved, and **He will continue and complete that work** until you stand before Jesus Christ, either after your death, or if you remain until His coming. Philippians 2:12-13 does NOT say **WORK FOR** your salvation, but rather to WORK it OUT. Once you already HAVE the salvation as a free gift from God in Jesus Christ, **your SPIRIT WITHIN YOU is born again**, and that NEW LIFE in CHRIST needs to be DEMONSTRATED ("worked out") on the **OUTSIDE**, in your daily life where people can SEE IT. God always gives us the power to do whatever He requires of us. **God gives us the POWER, as HE WORKS in us by His HOLY SPIRIT**, to "WILL" (have the desire) and to "DO" (carry it out) for His good pleasure.

- **I Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the _____ of peace Himself _____ you _____, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless (perfect, pure, holy) at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Philippians 1:6** "Being _____ of this very thing, that _____ who has begun a good _____ in _____ will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Definition: "Does He do it by the works of the law, or by the HEARING of FAITH?" - The answer to the question here is the same as in verse 2. God gives us the Holy Spirit by FAITH, and also God does miracles **"by the HEARING of FAITH."** Whether miracles in the Old Testament, or miracles done by Jesus in His earthly ministry, or miracles in our lives now, **it is ALWAYS by FAITH.**

- **Acts 2:22** "Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by _____, _____ and _____ which _____ did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know."
- **Mark 5:34** "And He said to her, 'Daughter, _____ has made you _____; go in peace, and be _____ of your affliction.'"
- **Matthew 9:29-30** "Then He touched their eyes, saying, '_____ to your _____ let it be to you,' and their eyes were opened....."