

# The Epistle To The Galatians<sup>1</sup>

Christ and the Spirit / The Hearing of Faith Versus Works of Law

## I Introduction

- A. The Spirit is the blessing of the promise by faith in Christ (**Gal.1:1-14**) In this passage we have the Spirit, the blessing, the promise, the faith and Christ
- B. The Spirit is mentioned four times in this passage. We have receiving the Spirit, beginning with the Spirit, supplied with the Spirit and the promise of the Spirit.
- C. This Spirit can not be separated from Christ (**Rom.8:2, 9-10, 2Cor.3:17-18, 1Cor.15:45b**)
- D. Christ Not the Spirit Was Crucified on the Cross (**Gal.3:1**)

## II Christ Entering As the Spirit into the Believers

- A. The Galatians, like us, believed on the crucified Christ but they received the Spirit (**Gal.3:2, 4:6**)
- B. The One Who died for us is the very One Who had entered into us as our life
- C. Although Christ and the Spirit are one, there is a difference in function, title and status.
- D. In the first two chapters of Galatians, the emphasis is on Christ because the focus is on God's economy, but the last four chapters emphasize the Spirit who brings us into the experience of life.

## III The Believers Receive the Spirit as the All-Inclusive and Ultimate Blessing of the Gospel

- A. When we were baptized into the Spirit, we were baptized into Christ (**1Cor.1:30, 12:13, Gal.3:27, Rom.6:3, Acts 1:5, Mtt.28:19, 3:11**)
- B. When Christ came into us, the Spirit came into (**1Cor.12:13, John 4:10, 14, 7:37-39, 1Cor.10:4, Rev.21:6, 22:17**)
- C. There is no need to wait for a second blessing after we are saved. We began with the Spirit and we are being perfected by the same Spirit we received. All we need to do is continue **being** filled with Him, i.e., Christ Who is the consummate Spirit, today. (**1Cor.12:13, Eph.5:18, 1:23, 3:19**)

## IV Supplying and Receiving

- A. God's New Testament economy is a matter of supplying the Spirit and receiving the Spirit
- B. We have already received the Spirit (**Gal.3:2**) and God continues to supply the Spirit to us. (**3:5**)

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<sup>1</sup> Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

## V The Contrast Between Faith and Law

- A. Law is related to the flesh (**Rom.7:5, 10-11**), but faith is related to the Spirit, Who is the realization of Christ (**Rom.8:2, 6, 10-11, 30**)
- B. Before faith came, we were under the guardianship of the law, but after faith came we are no longer under that child-conductor. (**Gal.3:22-25**)

## VI Faith and Grace

- A. We are no longer under the dispensation of law; we are under the dispensation of grace. The dispensation of grace is also the dispensation of faith. Grace is on God's side, while faith is on our side. Both grace and faith came with the arrival of Christ
- B. This grace, which is the Triune God dispensed into and enjoyed by us, and faith, which is the substantiation of all that Christ has accomplished for us, all starts with our hearing of faith. (**Eph.2:8, Heb.11:1, Gal.3:2b, 5b**)
  - 1. Paul asks the Galatians, rhetorically, is it by the works of law or by hearing of faith that they received the Spirit and are being supplied by the Spirit.
  - 2. We must ask ourselves these two questions constantly. Was it by the works of law or by hearing of faith that you received the Spirit (regenerated)? (**Gal.3:2b, 3**). Are you being supplied, constantly, by the Spirit? (**Gal.3:5b, 3**). What kind of Christian are you? A working Christian or a hearing Christian?

## VII The Subjective Aspects of Faith

- A. Faith Involves: (speaking the Word), hearing and appreciating
- B. Faith Is followed by: calling, receiving and accepting
- C. Faith Leads to: joining, partaking and enjoying

## VIII The Hearing of Faith and the Gathering of the Saints

- A. We began our Christian life through the hearing of faith. (**Gal.3:2b, 3**)
- B. We should continue our Christian life by the hearing of faith (**Gal.3:3, 5b**), especially by gathering together for the hearing of faith.
  - 1. We come together to be filled by the Spirit and with the indwelling Word by speaking, teaching, admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your hearts to the Lord. (**Eph.5:19, Col.:3:16**)
  - 2. We come together to incite one another to love and good works, exhorting one another.
  - 3. We come together with a portion to share a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue and an interpretation (**1Cor.14:26**)
  - 4. We come together to prophesy (**1Cor.14:1, 3-6, 31-32**)