

Source of Spiritual Blessings?

Galatians 3:5-9

East Berlin Community Church

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October 7, 2018

Introduction

- One reaps what one sows!
- Obedience to God's law brought blessing; Disobedience, disaster
- How do we receive God's ultimate blessing? By law or faith?
- For rhetorical questions
 - Source of their defection? *"Who bewitched you?"*
 - Reception of the Spirit? *By works of law or hearing of faith?*
 - Completion of their faith? *By flesh or Spirit?*
 - Vanity of suffering? *In vain or not?*

Source of Spiritual Blessings?

A. For the Believers in Galatia? — Galatians 3:5

1. The Father's generous supply of the Spirit and Power.
2. By the works of the Law?
 - a. The law could not supply the Spirit. The Spirit was never given as a reward for obeying the law.
 - b. The law was devoid of power. Rom. 7:21-25; 8:3-4
3. By the hearing of faith! God provides the Spirit and power through faith in Jesus Christ.

B. For Abraham and His True Sons?—Galatians 3:6-9

1. For Abraham?
 - a. Judaizers view of Abraham and circumcision—Genesis 17
 - 1) Sign of covenant was circumcision—Gen. 17:10-11, 13
 - 2) Abraham's obedience = salvation—Gen. 17:23-24
 - b. The Missing Piece—Genesis 15:1-6
 - 1) Occurs 14 years before circumcision
 - 2) Promise of an heir and the faith of Abram. Gen. 15:1-6
 - 3) Blessedness came prior to circumcision. Romans 4:9-12
2. For his True Sons?
 - a. Jews relied on physical descent. John 8:31-44
 - b. Being born a Jew does not make one a genuine, spiritual son of Abraham. Romans 2:28-29
 - c. *"Those who are of faith are the sons of Abraham"*—Gal. 3:7
 - d. Even Gentile believers—Gal. 3:8
 - a. Abrahamic Covenant and Gentiles
 - 1) "land"—Palestinian covenant of Deut. 30
 - 2) "seed"—Davidic Covenant of 2 Samuel 7
 - 3) "Universal blessing"—New Covenant of Jer. 31
 - b. Gentiles' salvation included in universal blessing
 - e. Abrahamic covenant to be fulfilled literally with Israel
 - f. Bottom Line: Spiritual blessings are ours by faith. Gal. 3:9