

**How may we properly relate to God?** Only by the work of the Holy Spirit. And when does the Spirit of God work? When Paul's message is preached, believed, and obeyed.

**Right Questions Regarding Your Spiritual Experience:  
Galatians 3:1-5** 12 DECEMBER 2021

When the false teachers came to the homes and gatherings of the believers in the territory called Galatia they were very surprised. There was love, joy, and peace. Wherever growing numbers of believers existed, there was a dramatic decline in theft, dishonesty, sexual misconduct.

Their social tastes changed—far less drinking, many of the people looked better physically than formerly—their general bearing.

What was additionally remarkable was that although these people seemed to be growing in their knowledge of God's will revealed in His word, there were no priests here; no robes, no animal sacrifices, no temple, and practically no regard for practicing the ceremonial Mosaic law.

When the false teachers came to Galatia they were very surprised—but not pleasantly surprised: these Galatians are too free, these people have gone way too far away from *the religion of the Jews*, they are not—shall we say—really spiritual enough. Plus, the future of Judaism is in jeopardy!

And therefore these false teachers who sounded like excellent teachers-- “dropped a neat package of ideas on the churches; pleasing God is just a matter of doing what he said. *If we are faithful, if we perform, if we continue, then* we will be holy and God will bless us.”

**Proposition:** Exam your religious experience by asking the right questions; false teachers can talk you out of the truth that you know in your head and have experienced in your walk.

Note the six questions: READ

**I. Who are you listening to, and why are you drawn to them?**

A. They were listening to false teachers who minimized Christ's redemptive work revealed in *Paul's gospel*.

1. Problems with Paul: 2<sup>nd</sup> generation believer, Lacks the Jerusalem anointing; wrong regarding justification—he's got Moses all wrong.

B. The Galatians had eyes full of the wrong thing: vs. 1.

When Paul met them his preaching “clearly portrayed the crucifixion:—they saw well, heard well, and received well.”

They no longer hold to what Paul taught—nor even to Paul as a true minister: “Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth.”

False teachers possess a bewitching practically hypnotizing power:

C. **Who did this to you? Is a question they both know the answer to: He asks this way to communicate astonishment!**

This neat package of instructions on how to be holy and be blessed of the Lord—was truthfully a Pandora's box of disasters—that unleashed every kind of evil and depravity.

How does this neat package sound? **Design** “God has a precise purpose for each person, object, and relationship that he creates. As we understand and live in harmony with his design, we will discover self-acceptance, identity, and fulfillment in life.”

**Authority** “God assigns various responsibilities to parents, church leaders, government officials, and other authorities. As we learn to acknowledge and honor these authorities, we can see God work through them to provide direction in our lives—honoring authorities brings inward peace.

**Responsibilities** God holds us accountable for every word, thought, action, attitude, and motive. When we offend others asking forgiveness and making proper restitution are essential steps to maintaining a clear conscience.

**How does this neat package sound?** A Pandora's box of disasters—that unleashed every kind of evil and depravity?

These are the first 3 of B. Gothard's Seven Basic Principles of Life: in these 3 and the other 4: no mentions of Christ, or the Holy Spirit.

## II. How did you begin your spiritual life and what was bestowed?

Acts 10:34-44. How did these people begin their spiritual life? And what was bestowed?

Acts 13: 46-48,52. How did these people begin their spiritual life? And what was bestowed?

**What was bestowed? Picture of Jenn, Jess, Brittany & Derek Gum:**  
Derek is: Fully Human; Fully a son; Fully a citizen of the USA; He possessed a Social security #; He had a birth certificate in Richmond. Entitled to use Virginia public schools. He is protected by many laws on the books in the Commonwealth of VA. Though he knows little or nothing of these things. What will he become?

With justification comes much more: united with Christ, Indwelt by the Spirit, son-placed, fully reconciled, welcomed at the Throne of Grace, united with other believers in the body of Christ. Sealed. In other words a person can begin life and not really know that much.

The reason we do not know more about the bestowment is because distractions and seductions are practically omnipresent: We do not naturally think with the Spirit about free grace that is available.

## III. Are you experiencing scriptural results? 3:4,5. God provided miracles—not because they refused to eat pork etc...

Isaiah 45:8 Think of yourself as dry ground, unable to produce crops (fruit: in keeping with Galatians) needing rain. No rain, no crops. God is pictured as creating a downpour of spiritual rain on you. He pours down righteousness on those who have none. What does the ground have to do to receive the downpour? “let the earth open” He requires no qualification, except that you acknowledge that you have none.

There should be results; salvation produces righteousness in the life that springs up. There should be changed feelings. There should be some growth. **#249 Great Hymns of the Faith**

