

Galatians Part 2

Note:

In this teaching, the following terms are used: “new creation”, “new man” or “new self”, “Christ in You”, “holy spirit” and “gift of holy spirit”. All these terms refer to that which is received and born in a person when he or she becomes born again.

Turn to Galatians 1

Paul has asserted that there is only one genuine gospel of Christ. He continues in this first chapter, instructing the believers about the background of this gospel and Paul's calling.

Galatians 1:11

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul received the gospel of Christ by revelation. Jesus Christ revealed it to him. This gospel was not taught to him by any man, Paul did not acquire a knowledge of it by a study of the scriptures, nor did he initiate it by his intellect or senses efforts.

Paul preached the same gospel in the Thessalonian area. Of the believers Paul testifies by revelation in 1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Paul, a man, appeared to the senses as a man preaching, communicating with words which any man could speak. However, Paul's preaching was different! 1 Thessalonians 1:5 states, from the Revised English Bible:

1 Thessalonians 1:5a

5 because when we brought you the gospel we did not bring it in mere words but in the power of the holy spirit and with strong conviction.

Paul's preaching and spiritual believing had the effect of invoking spiritual power. The Thessalonian people could see the effects of the spiritual power in action and believed. Now this same spiritual believing and spiritual power was at work in the believers as well. This new doctrine was not empty words, but words which brought real deliverance and the power of God to men and women.

Mark (16:14 – 18) testifies by revelation in his writings that spiritual power will go into operation when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. This is the doctrine brought forth by the operation of holy spirit which is available because of the accomplishments of Jesus Christ.

The believers in Galatia saw this same spiritual power in operation when Paul proclaimed the gospel of Christ to them. They received this gospel as the Word of God, not as words of man.

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Galatians 1:13

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.

14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

This is recorded in the first part of Acts 8 and the first part of Acts 9

Galatians 1:15

15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,

16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas (*Peter*) and remained with him fifteen days.

19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

20 (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!)

21 Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.

Paul's home town of Tarsus was in the province of Cilicia.

Galatians 1:22

22 And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

23 They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

24 And they glorified God because of me.

Paul completely put his career in Judaism behind him. He did not become acquainted with or associate with the apostles or the believers in Jerusalem right away either. Paul had been called to work and serve as an apostle, so he started that work first. He did not ask permission from the apostles or elders in Jerusalem, as he had received all the permission he needed from the head of the church, who is Christ. The wonderful result of Paul's service as he walked in the new self of the spirit, is that God was glorified!

Galatians 2:1

1 Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me.

2 I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

This time he went to Jerusalem by revelation and spiritual believing. Sometime before this journey to Jerusalem, he had received the gospel of Christ which he had been preaching. Now he was guided to share it with those in Jerusalem as well. Paul was not there to ask their permission or if they agreed with the gospel which he was preaching. He was there to share the gospel with them.

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Galatians 2:3

3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

Turn to Acts 16

Paul did not ask Titus to be circumcised before going on this journey. However there was another situation mentioned in Acts regarding Timothy.

Acts 16:1

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Turn back to Galatians 2

This does not sound fair or consistent. Why would Paul have Timothy circumcised and not have Titus circumcised? The difference is revelation, guidance from our heavenly father. They were to be ministering to both the Jews and Gentiles “in those places” and it was by revelation that Timothy was circumcised. They obeyed the guidance as an act of their free will.

In the visit to Jerusalem, Titus was not compelled by the believers there to be circumcised, which was significant.

Galatians 2:3

3 But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek.

4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—

5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

There was some secret work and spying going on behind the scenes. These secret activities were conducted by false brothers – those who were not really brothers, they were counterfeit. Their motive was to bring Paul into slavery and silence the gospel of Christ. To bring Paul into bondage or slavery would mean that he would have to start serving another lord, another master. That's what bondage does to a man or a woman.

Well, these false brethren thought they were moving secretly, but they did not recognize that God sees everything. Paul had the spiritual perception to see the secret works and the motive of heart, and withstood the attack. Then in this epistle, he openly exposes the existence and functioning of these false brothers and the devil spirit power they were invoking.

Deceiving spirits were working to promote these people as brothers, when they were not. They were smuggled into the fellowship of the believers which required planning (the operation of spirits of iniquity) and deception as well. Spirits of slumber worked to make it difficult for believers to detect that these were false brothers who had been smuggled in and to hide the operation of

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the other devil spirits. The secret motive of heart, to bring Paul and his fellow workers into bondage – this was the working of spirits of whoredom, spirits of error and finally spirits of bondage. The rulers of the darkness of this world do not want this gospel of Christ to be preached! Do you understand why it was so important for Paul to go to Jerusalem only after receiving revelation, so he could conduct this task by spiritual believing? God knew what was waiting for Paul there!

How did Paul respond to the spiritual perception? Did he start casting out spirits, exposing the false brethren? No, he did exactly as he was guided; he stood against them he did not yield in submission even for a moment. Why, what was his motive? So that the truth of the gospel (of Christ) would be preserved for YOU. It was the word of God that was at stake. These false brethren desired to twist the gospel of Christ. By standing against them, Paul preserved the truth of the gospel so he could present and promote it to those in Galatia.

Galatians 2:6

6 And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

Paul did not care about titles, offices, training, length of service, or name tags. He continued to be conscious of the truth that God shows no partiality. When it comes to the gospel of Christ and his service as an apostle, Paul takes his orders from and by way of the head of the Church.

Verse 6 in the Amplified Bible reads as follows:

6 Moreover, [no new requirements were made] by those who were reputed to be something – though what was their individual position *and* whether they really were of importance or not makes no difference to me; God is not impressed with the positions that men hold *and* He is not partial *and* recognizes no external distinctions – those [I say] who were of repute imposed no new requirements upon me [had nothing to add to my Gospel, and from them I received no new suggestions].

Did Paul practice what he preached? Yes he did. When we read the gospel of Christ in the epistles he wrote, we would be well advised to check how he applied the doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.

Think about what you may have been taught about the application of Romans 13, sometimes called “the higher powers”. Does Paul's conduct recorded here in Galatians comply with the traditional teachings about the application of Romans 13? Some may say, “...well, we are talking about the apostle Paul here; you and I are no apostle Paul!”. Lets not forget what Galatians 2:6 says; “...God is not impressed with the positions that men hold and He is NOT partial and recognizes no external distinctions...”. When standing for the truth, the gospel of Christ, and our individual callings, we take our marching orders from the top, just as Paul did.

What about 1 Corinthians 13, sometimes called the “Love” chapter? If Paul's behavior recorded here, as well as his writings in Galatians were attributed to any contemporary believer, that believer could be accused of violating verses 4 and 5 of 1 Corinthians 13 which state:

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1 Corinthians 13:4

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant
5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

Paul was standing for the truth, the gospel of Christ, as he was guided. He was walking by the operation of holy spirit. Thus, he did not violate any of the instructions in Romans or 1 Corinthians. The old self of the flesh cannot accurately apply these verses. Walking by the spirit is FOUNDATIONAL to walking in love, as Paul's life and ministry demonstrates.

Note what Paul was NOT doing. He was NOT attempting to control or lord over people. He was not attempting to MAKE anyone obey the gospel of Christ. He took a stand so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for others.

None of the GENUINE leadership in Jerusalem contradicted the gospel of Christ, nor did they attempt to amend or improve it.

Galatians 2:7

7 On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised
8 (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),

9 and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

James, Peter, and John all spiritually perceived the grace that was given to Paul. By agreement they decided that Peter would continue to work with the Jews and Paul would work with the Gentiles. They were in agreement with the gospel of Christ which Paul was preaching.

The genuine functioning visionaries submitted to one another out of reverence for Christ (Ephesians 5:21) as they walked by the spirit. Paul did NOT SUBMIT to the counterfeit leaders! By spiritual perception, Paul recognized the counterfeit brothers operating among the believers in Jerusalem. By spiritual perception James, Peter, and John recognized the genuine ministry and gospel of Christ which had been committed to Paul. That is how the genuine visionaries operated, serving in and among the believers.

Galatians 2:11

11 But when Cephas (*the Apostle Peter*) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

I thought we were not supposed to judge each other! Even the apostle Paul writes by revelation in Romans 14:10

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

13 Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

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Is Paul violating these instructions in Romans? Absolutely NOT! These verses in Romans have just been removed from their context and cannot be applied to this situation.

Paul is standing for the gospel of Christ, applying the spiritual wisdom which has been given him, thus conducting himself with spiritual believing which is pleasing to God. That is LOVE!

Paul also states by revelation in 1 Corinthians 5:12:

12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge?

It would appear that we are supposed to judge those inside the church! However, just so you know, this verse has been removed from its context as well and does not exactly apply to this situation in Galatians.

I have brought up these verses of scripture so that we are not fooled when we take a stand on the Word by spiritual guidance. Sometimes the devil starts throwing twisted scriptures at the believer who dares to take a stand. At those times, we are under no obligation to respond to the questions, criticisms and accusations of the devil. We respond to the spiritual guidance from our heavenly Father.

Galatians 2:12

12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party (*faction, group, sect*).

The great apostle Peter had come to Antioch to visit the believers. He did fine until certain people from Jerusalem showed up. THEN HE reacted in fear by reverting to his legalistic religious behavior.

Galatians 2:13

13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

See how the fear spreads? Fear motivated hypocritical behavior which resulted in LEADING the believers astray. Do you think they wanted to be afraid, or hypocrites? Do you think that the apostle Peter desired to lead people astray? Of whom was the apostle Peter afraid? He was afraid of "...certain men from James...", the same false brethren, false leaders in Jerusalem that Paul refused to submit to. What was the motive of these men from James? "To bring us into slavery, bondage!". Who was in bondage here? Who was moving in fear, against their will? Was it Paul, or Peter?

Peter did not have any intention of harming the believers. Yet, his action had the impact of an indirect spiritual attack on the believers. Someone needed to step in and lovingly set things straight.

Why didn't Paul reprove the false brethren and leaders? Remember in chapter 1 of Galatians the instruction, the guidance from Paul, by revelation was to separate from those who are preaching a different gospel. Sometimes there is nothing else to be done to minister to the false brethren. However Paul did have guidance to minister to Peter and the other believers.

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Galatians 2:14

14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel (*that was the standard*), I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Who were the “all” that Paul was addressing? He was addressing all the Jews who had come to Antioch, including the men from James.

Who was NOT walking in love to the believers here? Was it Paul who was exposing the legalistic, hypocritical behavior of the visitors? Was it the visitors who were slighting the local Gentile believers and treating them as if they were unclean and defiled?

Peter was not adhering to the truth of the gospel of Christ. This had the impact of leading the others of the same legalistic religious background into error. Thus, the truth of the gospel was at stake. Notice that the influence of the religious legalism was to attempt to FORCE the Gentiles to live like Jews! There was much for Paul to stand against here. Remember, Paul's intent was to preserve the truth of the Gospel for others. He was not attempting to lord over anyone or to force anyone to do anything.

Galatians 2:15

15 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; (*see, he was addressing the Jewish believers*)

16 yet we know (*we don't doubt or question*) that a person is not justified by works of the law (*this is works of the flesh*) but (*we are justified*) through (*the*) faith ~~in~~ (of) Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by (*the*) faith ~~in~~ (of) Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

17 But if, in our (*the new self of the spirit*) endeavor to be justified in Christ, we (*our old self of the flesh*) too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant (bond slave) of sin (*is Christ a slave of sin*)? Certainly not!

18 For if I (*the old self of the flesh*) rebuild what I (*the new self of the spirit*) tore down, I (*the old self of the flesh*) prove myself (*the old self of the flesh*) to be a transgressor.

Isn't that interesting! NO LEGALISTIC ACTION or behavior IS JUSTIFIED! LEGALISTIC ACTION OR BEHAVIOR WILL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER RESULT IN JUSTIFICATION!

In fact, resorting to LEGALISTIC, RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOR will ONLY RESULT IN PROVING THAT THE OLD SELF OF THE FLESH IS SINFUL AND UNJUSTIFIED! By the law is the knowledge of sin.

In addition, LEGALISTIC BEHAVIOR WILL NEVER PRODUCE THE OPERATION OF THE GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT OR THE IMPARTATION OF GODLY SPIRITUAL POWER!

That having been said, I must add that by the grace of God, the apostle Peter could still speak in tongues and operate holy spirit. However, the legalistic religious behavior would not result in the operation of spiritual power; rather, it would hinder that operation.

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Paul boldly, lovingly and accurately confronts, reproves, and corrects the error. He is directly exposing the operation of the deceiving spirits (*promotes the twisted gospel as being genuine, promotes the false brethren as genuine*), the spirits of error (*convinces people the counterfeit is genuine when it is not*), the spirits of bondage (*fear which keeps people from doing what is right, or doing the Godly things they desire to do*) and the spirits of slumber (*hides the deception and the error – spiritual blindness*) among others.

Galatians 2:19

19 For through the law I (the old self of the flesh) died to the law, (why?) so that I (the new self of the spirit) might (I am able to) live to God.

20 I (the old self of the flesh) have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I (the old self of the flesh) who live, but Christ who lives in me (the new self of the spirit). And the life I (the new self) now live in the flesh I (the new self) live by faith in (of) the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Remember 2 Corinthians 4:7?

7 But we (the new self) have this treasure (the new self of the spirit) in jars of clay (the body of flesh), to show that the surpassing power (that is MORE THAN ABUNDANT POWER) belongs to God and not to us.

The surpassing power, the RIVERS of living water, that we have access to by way of the new self of the spirit, originates from God and NOT from our flesh.

Galatians 2:21

21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

In this context, what is it to nullify the grace of God? It is to submit, to yield to false brethren, false leaders, to the exercised power of the devil spirits such leaders impart, in order to bring us into slavery and bondage, to serve the god of this world. The truth of the gospel of Christ would be twisted to teach that righteousness is through the law, and that Christ died for no purpose. This is indeed what much of Christianity believes today.

Now its interesting to note, that since there is no law in effect, there is no legal violation or wrongdoing. However that does not mean that there is no standard of right and wrong. The standard documented in this record is the truth of the Gospel of Christ.

To this point, Paul has made it very clear that he recognized and stood against false brethren in Jerusalem, whose motive it was to bring them into slavery, bondage. He reports that even the great apostle Peter had caved into the spiritual attack. In Antioch, Paul confronted religious legalism, the believers who had been taken in this spiritual fault, and the devil spirits who were operating to attack the believers. He responded by teaching them the truth so that they could recover themselves from their fear, hypocrisy, and being led astray. Again, Paul was not attempting to force anyone to do anything. He asked pointed questions. He used himself as an example and mainly spoke about himself.

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Now Paul asks in Galatians 3:1

1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched **you**?

The answer is, “the same false brethren, the same counterfeit leadership and the same deceiving devil spirits” that Paul has been confronting.

“bewitched” is “to mislead by pretenses as if by magic”.

Galatians 3:1

1 O foolish Galatians! Who (*exactly is it that*) has bewitched **you**? (*how did this happen?*) It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

2 Let me ask you only this: Did you receive (*into manifestation*) the Spirit by works of the law or by ~~hearing with faith~~ (*believing what you heard*)?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

4 Did you suffer (*experience*) so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Experience what? The new birth and the operation of the gift of holy spirit. They were beginning to walk in their new spiritual self. Paul asks if they would be perfected, walking in the old self of the flesh?

Galatians 3:5

5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or ~~by hearing with faith~~— (*by hearing with believing*)

Just who is it that supplies the (*gift of holy*) spirit and works miracles among you? It is God, not man! This supply of holy spirit is not inactive or unproductive. This is spiritual hearing resulting in spiritual believing which imparts spiritual power. This spiritual work is NOT PRODUCED by religious legalism! religiously attending services, getting water baptized, running to the church alter, confessing sins, religiously tithing, singing in the choir, religiously memorizing bible verses – none of these religious activities bring about the imparting of spiritual power. Could you manifest holy spirit during these activities? Yes, you could. However any operation of holy spirit that takes place during these activities *does NOT occur BECAUSE of the religious activities.*

Galatians 3:6

6 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

Abraham received holy spirit upon him. God gave him spiritual knowledge and wisdom which he obeyed with spiritual believing, which pleased God. This spiritual believing was accounted to Abraham as righteousness.

Galatians 3:7

7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

This verse as translated is a bit difficult. The “scripture” could not preach the gospel to Abraham, as it did not exist until centuries later. Rather, it is God that preached the gospel beforehand to

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Abraham.

Lamsa's bible translates this verse as follows:

“8 Because God knew in advance that the Gentiles would be declared righteous through faith, He first preached to Abraham, as it is said in the holy scripture, 'In you shall all the Gentiles be blessed'”.

Galatians 3:9

9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the ~~man of faith~~ “faithful”, or “Abraham the believer”.

10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

Only one man was able to do all the works of the law, and that was Jesus Christ.

Walking by the spirit, in the new spiritual self, Paul received the gospel of Christ. It was revealed to him by the operation of holy spirit; no man had anything to do with revealing or teaching the gospel to Paul. He served within the body of Christ as an apostle, proclaiming, preaching and promoting this gospel, not himself.

It was by spiritual discernment that he was enabled to discern the false, counterfeit brethren, their activities, and their motive of heart. It was by spiritual believing that he stood for the truth of the gospel of Christ, refusing to submit to these false, counterfeit leaders.

It was by spiritual discernment that he was enabled to discern the genuine brethren. He was given and accepted the right hand of fellowship with the genuine brethren. Remember, yielding in submission to the false leaders and their twisted gospel would result in bondage and service to another master, the god of this world. The truth of the gospel would not be preserved for others.

It was by spiritual wisdom and believing that he was able to lovingly minister to the apostle Peter and the others who were led astray by hypocrisy which was motivated by fear.

The believers in Galatia were being spiritually harassed and attacked by the same spirits moving the same twisted gospel in the same false brethren and leaders which Paul had encountered. By spiritual knowledge, wisdom and believing, he is ministering to the believers by teaching them the truth they need to know and understand. The teaching of the truth exposes the spirits, the false brethren, the false gospel, and their motive of heart.

In the first century, the gospel of Christ was not received by the works of the flesh. The gospel was not promoted, preached, or moved by the works of the flesh. Doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness was not imparted by the works of the flesh.

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As Paul states by revelation in Galatians 2:20

20 I (*the old self*) have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I (*the old self*) who live, but Christ who lives in me (*the new self*). And the life I (*the new self*) now live in the flesh I (*the new self*) live by faith in (*of*) the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Paul serves as an apostle as he walks by the new self of the spirit, not by walking in the old self of the flesh. This is what enables him to stand, refusing to nullify the grace of God, refusing to serve the god of this world.

We serve in the same manner, walking, living, by the new self of the spirit, by the faith of Jesus Christ who gave himself for us.