

Reference	Descriptions of synonyms of the Gospel
2 Cor. 5:19	
2 Cor. 11:6	
Galatians 1:6, 16,24	
Ephesians 3:8	
Colossians 1:23	
Colossians 4:3	
Titus 1:1-3	

## #3 FAITH NOT LAW

### Introduction

*Gal 3:5*

*Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because*

*you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*

**Galatians-  
Freedom in  
Christ**

### Recap

In chapter 2:1-10 the issue of circumcision brought to light the issue of what is essential and what is not as a response to the Gospel of Jesus. In the second half of chapter 2 Paul furthers his insistence that faith alone in Christ is all that is required. A conflict with the Apostle Peter about eating certain foods in certain company gave opportunity to expose the hypocrisy of the teaching of the 'Judaizers' or 'Law-keepers' who came to Antioch from Jerusalem and impacted ultimately on the Galatians.

In our next section Paul turns his attention away from himself and from the other apostles and the Judaizers to the Galatians themselves. He is flabbergasted that those who had received the free give of grace could so easily be seduced (3:1). They have reduced the Gospel's power by adding to faith a whole range of conditions the Judaizers insisted upon in order to legitimize their status as children of Abraham.

### Understanding the Gospel according to Paul

1. It came from \_\_\_\_\_ Gal. 1:11-12, 16 (It is the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_).
2. It is the fulfillment of the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
It fulfils the promises made to \_\_\_\_\_  
Gal. 3:6-14; 3:26-29

### Prayer

Thankyou that you reveal yourself to us and have called us to both follow and to go. We praise you, that in your saving work on the cross there is nothing that you require of us but a broken and contrite heart, open to hear you and receive your love. Give us the courage and the perseverance to hold on to the hope we have in you that we, made right in you, will live, by faith. Amen.

- It is the ultimate purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Gal. 3:15-25; 4:1-5

- It fulfils the symbolism of the children of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Gal. 4:21-31 (see Genesis 16:1-16)



3. It focuses on the person of \_\_\_\_\_  
Gal. 1:16

4. It involves two key words:
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gal. 1:6; 2:21
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Gal. 1:23; 3:2, 5-9, 14, 22-26)

5. It is established by the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
of Jesus Christ  
Gal. 1:4; 2:20,21; 3:1

~~~~~  
Summary of Paul's Gospel in Galatians:

- Belief in the true Gospel will be expressed in behaviour that reflects its message.
- The true Gospel teaches justification by faith in Christ, not be keeping the Law.
- The true Gospel involves identification of the believer with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The Gospel involves the 'grace of God'.
- The Gospel grants righteousness through the death of Christ.
- The Gospel centers on the death of Christ.

### Going Further

Paul's Gospel is described or identified in a number of ways in the book of Acts and his letters. In the table below identify the various ways of referring to his Gospel.

| Reference             | Descriptions of synonyms of the Gospel |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Acts 9:15,20,22,27,28 |                                        |
| Acts 13:5,12,26,32,   |                                        |
| Acts 13:38,39,43      |                                        |
| Acts 14:3,7,15,22     |                                        |
| Acts 15:26            |                                        |
| Acts 16:6             |                                        |
| Acts 17:2,18          |                                        |
| Acts 18:4,5           |                                        |
| Acts 19:8             |                                        |
| Acts 20:21,24,25,27   |                                        |
| Acts 22:18            |                                        |
| Acts 24:24            |                                        |
| Acts 26:16,17,18,20   |                                        |
| Acts 28:23,31         |                                        |
| Romans 1:5,9          |                                        |
| Romans 10:8           |                                        |
| Romans 15:19          |                                        |
| Romans 16:25-26       |                                        |
| 1 Corinthians 1:18,23 |                                        |
| 2 Corinthians 3:6     |                                        |
| 2 Cor. 4:5            |                                        |

- Which of the following have been part of your experience in churches:
  - ⇒ Some fall prey to a system of legalism and works righteousness that promises more but produces hardship.
  - ⇒ Some fall prey to formalism, substituting external ceremonies for the internal reality of Jesus.
  - ⇒ Some fall prey to legalistic systems of dos and don'ts, hoping to improve their standing before God.
  - ⇒ Some fall prey to looking for a second blessing, such as elite spiritual gifts, as if that will gain them a higher plane of spirituality.
  - ⇒ Some fall prey to a replacement of the gospel with a social agenda, such as racism, or politicism.
- Read Colossians 2:6-23. List the essentials to hold on to and the warnings in the text.

## Study— Chapter 3 Faith

### 1. Examining your testimony (verses 1-5)

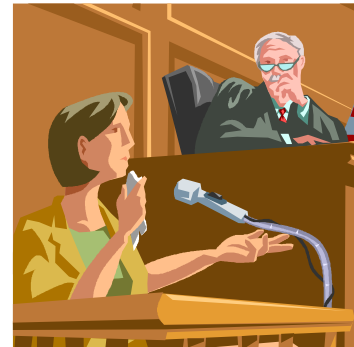
Paul reminds the Galatians of how they first became Christians.

- Q1. According to verse 2, when can we assume that the Holy Spirit has entered a Christian's life?
- a. When believing the gospel about Jesus?
  - b. When perfectly obedient to God?
  - c. When taking part in a religious ritual?
  - d. At some point later in the Christian life?
  - e. Impossible to say?

Q2. What is the 'goal' and the 'human effort' referring to in verse 3?

Q3. What evidence have the Galatians seen of the Spirit with their own eyes already?

Q.4 Why might they have experienced suffering thus far after becoming Christians as verse 4 suggests?



## 2. Examining the testimony of Abraham (verses 6-9)

As he teaches in Romans, Paul now turns to the great ancestor of all Hebrew people in the Bible— Abraham—to further his argument about justification by faith and not by keeping the Law of Moses.

Q.5 Check out Genesis 15:6. On what basis did Abraham receive the gracious gift of being called 'righteous' (that is, a friend of God)?

Q.6 What are the defining characteristics of a child of Abraham according to the passage?

Q.7 Read verses 8-9 again. Now check out Genesis 12:3, 18:18 and 22:18. What is it that the majority of Israelites did not understand?

Q.8 How does the unmerited and undeserved and quite miraculous gift of God's righteousness come to any person?

## 3. Examining the death of Christ (verses 10-14)

Q.9 Why is no-one justified by observing the Law of Moses?

Q.10 How are Law and faith opposed?

Q.11 How does Jesus redeem us (buy us back from slavery to sin and give us freedom)?

Q.12 Look at verse 14 and show how it is a summary of verses 1-13.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



### Challenges Today

- List some rules people have told you should keep in order to be a 'real' or 'serious' Christian today.