

## Children of Promise

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### GALATIANS 3 AND 4

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#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

#### Introduction:

What does it mean for a believer to be justified as a result of faith and not because of works? *Justification* not only declared a person innocent, but righteous in their behavior. How is it possible for a righteous God to take a condemned sinner, destined to an eternity in Hell, and declare them righteous?

Paul reasons that if a believer has received salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit by

faith, why then revert back to keeping the works of the law in order to live the Christian life (3:1-5)?

In 3:6-9, Paul uses the example of Abraham, the founding father of the Hebrew nation. Abraham did not receive the covenant promises by keeping the Mosaic Law. The Mosaic Law did not even exist during his lifetime. Like the nation of Israel, Gentiles receive God's blessings by faith.

In Galatians 3:26, because of faith in Christ, a believer is called a "son of God." This is possible because every believer who comes to Christ by faith has been "baptized," or totally identified, in Christ (v. 28). Thus in a spiritual sense they are descendants of Abraham.

In Galatians 4:1-11, to further illustrate his point, Paul used the analogy of the adoption of a son into a Roman family. As long as a son of a Roman parent was not legally adopted in a special adoption ceremony, he was no different than a slave. At salvation, our status changes from slaves to adult sons – heirs of God. This was made possible by the work of Christ on the cross. There is but one means to appropriate that work. It is only by faith.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Galatians 3:2, 3, 6-9, 16, 27-28 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup>This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by<sup>h</sup>hearing with faith?

<sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun<sup>h</sup>by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

<sup>6</sup>Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

<sup>8</sup>The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations will be blessed in you."

<sup>9</sup>So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

<sup>16</sup>Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

<sup>27</sup>For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

<sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### Read Galatians 4:6-7, 9 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

<sup>7</sup>Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

<sup>9</sup>But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

## ② EXPLORE His Word

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What does God MEAN?

1. What does Paul mean by "having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh" (3:3)?



## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

### **Sermon Notes**

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