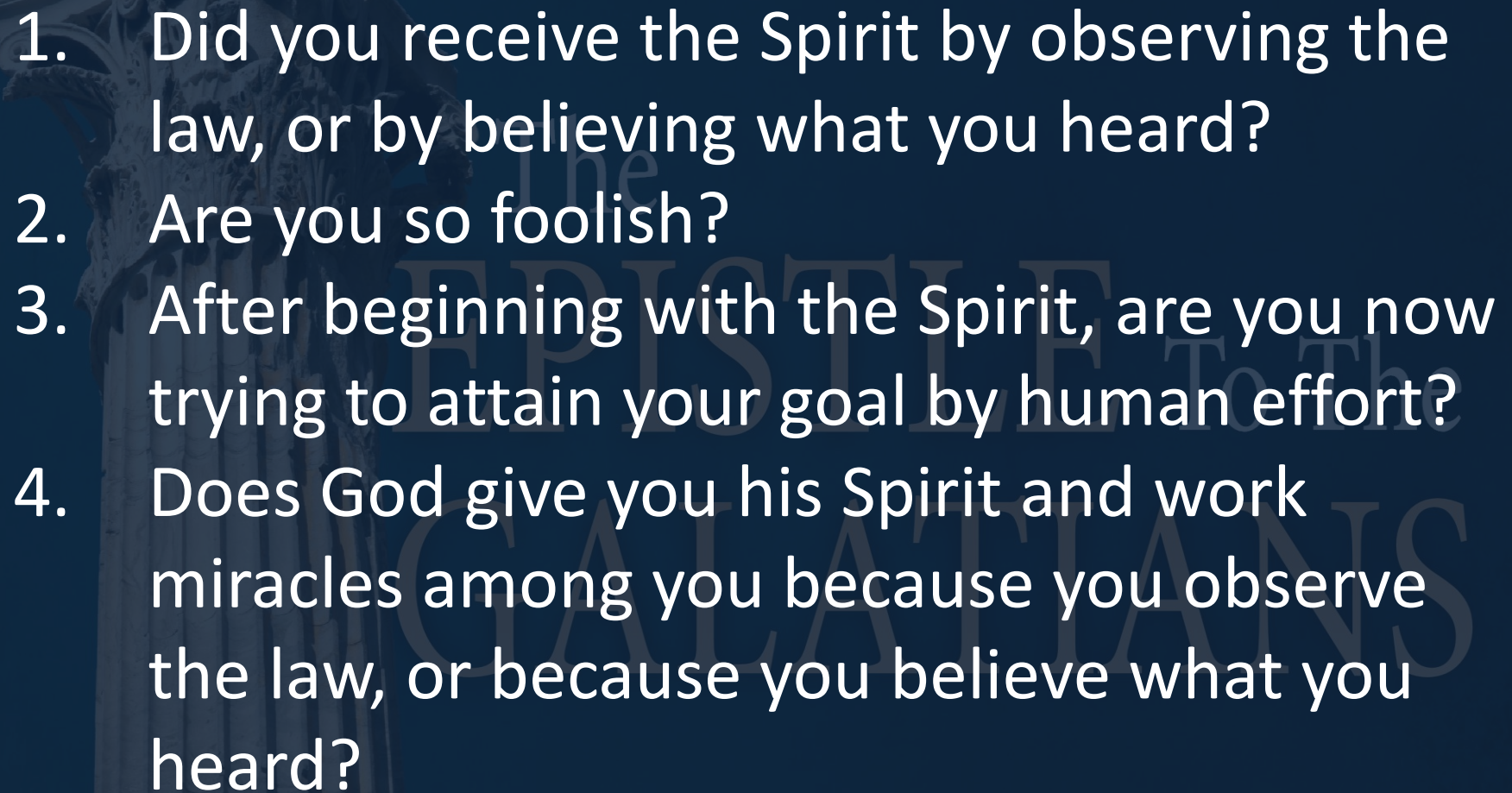




The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

Promise or Law?

Chapter 3

- 
1. Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?
 2. Are you so foolish?
 3. After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?
 4. Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?



I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

Covenant of promise relying solely on God's faithfulness, whereas the covenant with Moses was a conditional covenant of law relying on man's faithfulness.

The
EPIS TLE to the
GALATIANS

I. The Promise--Covenant of Grace vs.15-18

To Abraham, God said, "I Will." Through Moses he said, "Thou shalt."

The promise set forth a religion dependent on God. The law set forth a religion dependent on man.

I. The Promise--Covenant of Grace vs.15-18

The promise centers on God's plan, God's grace, God's initiative, God's sovereignty, God's blessings. The law centers on man's duty, man's work, man's responsibility, man's behavior, man's obedience.

I. The Promise--Covenant of Grace vs.15-18

The promise, being grounded in grace, requires only sincere faith. The law, being grounded in works, demands perfect obedience [MacArthur New Testament Commentary--Galatians, 82].

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

A. Directed to the *Seed*

¹⁵ Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

A. Directed to the *Seed*

¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

A. Directed to the *Seed*

Genesis 15:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

B. Given with lasting authority

Genesis 15:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

B. Given with lasting authority

¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

B. Given with lasting authority

Genesis 15:17-18a (NIV) ¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram...

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

C. Established a solitary way

¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise;

The
EPISTLE to the
GALATIANS

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

C. Established a solitary way

John 10:7-10 (NIV) ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.

I. The Promise--*Covenant of Grace vs.15-18*

C. Established a solitary way

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.



II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

19^a What, then, was the purpose of the law?

19^b It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

²³ Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. ²⁴ So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

The divine Spirit wounds before he heals, he kills before he makes alive. We usually draw a distinction between law-work and gospel-work; but law-work is the work of the Spirit of God, is so far a true gospel-work that it is a frequent preliminary to joy

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

and peace of the gospel. The law is the needle which draws after it the silken thread of blessing, and you cannot get the thread into the stuff without the needle: men do not receive the liberty wherewith Christ makes them free till, first of all, they

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

have felt bondage within their own spirit driving them to cry for liberty to the great Emancipator, the Lord Jesus Christ. This sense or spirit of bondage works for our salvation by leading us to cry for mercy [Reisinger, Law & Gospel, 39].



II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

A. The laws purpose:

"Satan would have us to prove ourselves holy by the law, which God gave to prove us sinners"



II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

B. The law reveals transgressions

Galatians 3:25 (NIV) ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.



II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

B. The law reveals transgressions

Ezekiel 36:27 (NIV) And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

II. The Law--Not a replacement for faith vs.19-22

B. The law reveals transgressions

Galatians 3:29 (NIV) If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

Promise or Law?

Chapter 3