

Galatians 3:1-14 *Moses & the Prophets Challenge Your Assumptions.* Oh, you Galatians—you're thoughtlessly foolish. What happened? Who overpowered you, gave you the evil eye? [ἐβάσκαθεν, "give the evil eye to, fascinate, bewitch, overpower,"<sup>940</sup>] Before your very eyes, the Christ was clearly shown crucified. And, for the record, did you receive Holy Spirit by observing the Law, or by believing what you heard? Are you truly this thoughtless, this foolish?

After beginning with Holy Spirit are you now going to attain your goal on your own? Have you suffered so much, for nothing? Does Father God send Holy Spirit at the Son's request because you observe the Law? Work miracles among you because you observe the Law? Or, because you believe [πιστος] what you've heard.

Learn from Abraham—Moses wrote "He believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>Gen.15:6</sup> Understand this—those who believe are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify by trust in God, and even announced the good news to Abraham in advance—Moses wrote "All nations will be blessed through you." <sup>Gen.12:3; 18:18; 22:18</sup> So? Those who trust the Lord our God are close to God just like Abraham was close to God, the man who trusted.

Moses also warned us that observing the Law creates a curse, "Cursed is everyone who does not do everything written in the Book of the Law." <sup>Deut. 27:26</sup> Listen up, no one is justified before God by the Law because, as Habakkuk wrote, "The righteous will live by trust." <sup>Hab. 2:4</sup> The Law is not based on trust, on the contrary Moses declared "The man who does these things will live by these things." <sup>Lev. 18:5</sup>

The Christ paid for us, He redeemed and protected us from the curse of the Law. How? By becoming a curse for us. Moses wrote "Cursed is anyone who is hung on a tree." <sup>Deut. 21:23</sup> And, why did the Christ redeem us? So that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus. It is by trust in God that we receive the promise of Holy Spirit.

### GALATIANS 3:1-14

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus [the] Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? <sup>4</sup>Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? <sup>5</sup>Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

<sup>6</sup>Consider Abraham: "He believed [ἐπίστευσεν] God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.

<sup>8</sup>The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles [ἔθνη] by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations [ἔθνη] will be blessed through you." <sup>9</sup>So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith [πιστῶ, *believing*].

<sup>10</sup>All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." <sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." <sup>12</sup>The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them."

<sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." [ξύλου, *anything made of wood, a piece of wood, a club, staff; the trunk of a tree, used to support the cross-bar of a cross in crucifixion*] <sup>14</sup>He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit [Πνεύματος].

- Q Why would Paul call the Galatians “bewitched” when with “their very eyes” the Christ was portrayed clearly as crucified? What was the play on words here?
- Q What has bewitched you, given you the evil eye so that you misunderstand, and become thoughtlessly foolish?
- Q What stops Holy Spirit from coming by merely observing the Law? Examples, examples, examples! Consider why we should tell the truth—what reasons would grieve Holy Spirit?
- Q What does Paul mean when he challenges them, and us, to “believe” what you’ve heard?
- Q How were all nations “blessed” by Abraham’s descendants?
- Q What causes this “blessing” to occur (verse 9)? What new name/title was Abraham given in verse 9?
- Q Why do the righteous live by believing (faith, πιστος)?
- Q What is the cost of living for seeking righteousness? Πιστος!
- Q Why isn’t the Law based on faith (πιστος)?
- Q Why are those “hung on a tree” cursed?<sup>6</sup>
- Q What is your favorite name for Holy Spirit? Why?
- Q Why were we redeemed? What is the promise of the Spirit? Consider Emmanuel vs. Pneumatos [Breath, Πνεύματος].
- Q What was revolutionary about verse 14; to wit, by trust we receive the “promise of the Spirit?”

### TITLES AND NAMES OF HOLY SPIRIT

|                                                                     |                                                       |                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Breath of the Almighty<br>Job 33:4                                  | Spirit of the Lord God<br>Isaiah 61:1                 | Spirit of counsel<br>Isaiah 11:2        |
| Comforter<br>John 14:16 John 14:26 ; 15:26                          | Spirit of the Lord<br>Isaiah 11:2 ; Acts 5:9          | Spirit of might<br>Isaiah 11:2          |
| Eternal Spirit<br>Hebrews 9:14                                      | Spirit of God<br>Genesis 1:2 ; 1 Corinthians 2:11 ;   | Spirit of understanding<br>Isaiah 11:2  |
| Free Spirit<br>Psalms 51:12                                         | Job 33:4                                              | Spirit of knowledge<br>Isaiah 11:2      |
| God<br>Acts 5:3 Acts 5:4                                            | Spirit of the Father<br>Matthew 10:20                 | Spirit of truth<br>John 14:17 ; 15:26   |
| Good Spirit<br>Nehemiah 9:20 ;<br>Psalms 143:10                     | Spirit of Christ<br>Romans 8:9 ; 1 Peter 1:11         | Spirit of holiness<br>Romans 1:4        |
| Holy Spirit<br>Psalms 51:11 ; Luke 11:13 ;<br>Ephesians 1:13 ; 4:30 | Spirit of the Son<br>Galatians 4:6                    | Spirit of revelation<br>Ephesians 1:17  |
| Lord, The<br>2 Thessalonians 3:5                                    | Spirit of life<br>Romans 8:2 ; Revelation 11:11       | Spirit of judgment<br>Isaiah 4:4 ; 28:6 |
| Power of the Highest<br>Luke 1:35                                   | Spirit of grace<br>Zechariah 12:10 ; Hebrews<br>10:29 | Spirit of burning<br>Isaiah 4:4         |
| Spirit, The<br>Matthew 4:1 ; John 3:6 ; 1 Timothy 4:1               | Spirit of prophecy<br>Revelation 19:10                | Spirit of glory<br>1 Peter 4:14         |
|                                                                     | Spirit of adoption<br>Romans 8:15                     |                                         |
|                                                                     | Spirit of wisdom<br>Isaiah 11:2 ; Ephesians 1:17      |                                         |

<sup>6</sup>“If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.” –Deuteronomy 21:22-23