

Questions for Small Groups | May 12, 2019

Anyone leading the group this week may find additional Small Group Leader Resources at <http://www.wcchapel.org/resources-for-small-group-leaders/>

Explore the Holy Spirit — Receiving the Holy Spirit

Focus Passage: Galatians 3:1–9

Context: Galatians 2:15–3:9

Other Passages Referenced: Genesis 15:6; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 3:18;

Sermon Recap: To receive the Holy Spirit is to receive a relationship with the Triune God who is transforming us into the likeness of Christ. The receiving of the Holy Spirit was connected to the fulfillment of some of God's greatest Old Testament promises. We need to understand that the Holy Spirit is just as much of a person as Jesus was on earth. As the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we have fellowship with the Father and Son as well. When we do not depend on the Holy Spirit to guide and empower our lives, we depend on ourselves—self-absorption ... self-reliance ... self-gratification ... self-righteousness. Trying to live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit is lethal. If you have entrusted your life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, you have received His Spirit living inside you. That means you will never be more accepted by God than you are right now.

Background Helps

- Galatia – a region in what is modern-day Southern Turkey. The churches there to whom Paul addressed his letter may have included churches in the cities of Iconium, Pisidian Antioch, Lystra, and Derbe that resulted from his team's missionary activity described in the Book of Acts.
- The context of Paul's letter to the Galatian churches has to do with a group of professing Jewish Christians known as "Judaizers." Judaizers basically argued that it was necessary for Gentile converts to Christianity to be circumcised and observe other Jewish customs and laws.
- To see how Paul's writing about the Holy Spirit relates to his concerns about the Judaizers, it would be best to read or listen to the entire letter of Galatians in one sitting. It can be read out loud in less than 21 minutes.

Hook: *Pick a Question to Help Ignite Conversation*

Are you more inclined to be a rule-keeper or a rule-questioner?

Have you ever tried to trick someone into thinking that you were someone else? ... Tell us about it.

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ: Galatians 3:1–9

1. How does Gal 3:2 relate to Gentile believers mentioned in Gal 3:7–9?
2. When did Abraham live in relation to the time the Old Testament Law was given to the Jewish people through Moses? How is that significant?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. What personal application(s) did you draw from Sunday's message and our Galatians 3 passage?
2. Have you been more mindful of the Holy Spirit's presence in response to the *Explore the Holy Spirit* series? If yes, can you see how that increased awareness has impacted your life in any way?
3. Are you currently trying to accomplish something that only the Holy Spirit can do?
4. How can we obey the Holy Spirit without falling into the "Trap of Legalism"?
5. How can we avoid falling into the "Trap of Spiritual Minimalism"—of viewing the Holy Spirit as an "add-on" to salvation rather than an essential component?

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.