

Galatians 5:22-25 NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 3:1-22

- vv.1-5: The Main Point
- vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith
- vv.15-22: The Law and the Promise

By Faith
Galatians 3:1-22
Stephanie Fehr | May 10

Definitions/Ideas

- The Law:
 - Given to Moses
 - First five books in the OT
 - Includes: Sabbath, circumcision, eating kosher/food laws, 10 Commandments, worship/sacrifice, festivals/feasts
- Mosaic Law or Mosaic Covenant

Definitions/Ideas

- Faith:
 - Greek word: *pistis* - one's conviction of the truth of anything or the belief in something
 - Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Definitions/Ideas

- Faith:
 - Religious practices or set of beliefs that guides one's life
 - Entails faithfulness

vv.1-5: The Main Point

- Tone: upset
 - "You crazy Galatians! Did someone put a spell on you? Have you taken leave of your senses. Something crazy has happened..." (v.1, MSG)

vv.1-5: The Main Point

- Main point: they received the Holy Spirit when they put their faith in Jesus Christ, not by the works of the law
- v.2: "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?"

vv.1-5: The Main Point

- v.1, MSG: "for it's obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus in your lives. His sacrifice on the cross was certainly set before you clearly enough."
- Cruciform life, cross-central

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- Genesis 12: the call of Abram
 - 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
 - 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- Genesis 15: God's first covenant with Abram
 - A son/heir - "his seed"
 - Promised Land
 - Genesis 15:6: "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness."

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- Genesis 17: the covenant is reiterated
 - Again promise of "seed" and Promised Land
 - Sealed with circumcision

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- Summary:
 - Genesis 12: Promise of blessing all people through Abraham and Abraham's seed
 - Genesis 15: Abraham's faith puts him in right standing with God
 - Genesis 17: Circumcision is introduced

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- v.6: "So also Abraham 'believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'"
- Abraham was accepted by God, as Scot McKnight writes, "solely because he surrendered his entire life to God's promise."

vv.6-14: Abraham's Faith

- vv.7-9: "Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."

vv.15-22: The Law and the Promise

- v.15: an example from everyday life
- (MSG): "Friends, let me give you an example from everyday affairs of the free life I am talking about. Once a person's will has been signed, no one else can annul it or add to it."

vv.15-22: The Law and the Promise

- Promises God made to Abraham cannot be changed 430 years later through Moses/law (v.17)
- Following the law does not negate the original promise (v.18)

vv.15-22: The Law and the Promise

- “The seed”
- v.16: Paul interprets the promises made to Abraham and Abraham’s seed to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ is the seed/offspring
- Jesus is the offspring that will bless all the peoples on earth

vv.15-22: The Law and the Promise

- v.29: “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
- We are blessed to be a blessing
- v.19, “Why, then was the law given at all?”

Takeaways

- We are blessed to be a blessing
- Keep our eyes on the cross

Takeaways

- Nijay Gupta writes: "Without devaluing the resurrection in any way, Paul wanted to keep the Galatians' eyes fixed on the cross, the self-giving of Christ, as the power and wisdom of God – not just as an event but as a paradigm for Christian life."

Takeaways

Hebrews 12:1-3: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Takeaways

Hebrews 12:1-3: For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Takeaways

- We are blessed to be a blessing
- Keep our eyes on the cross
 - Hebrews 12:2: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus."
- Trust in God's promises and in his faithfulness