



Week 6: Galatians 3:6–14

GOSPEL FAITH

Relentless in his defense of the gospel, Paul moves beyond recent history and the practices of the early church, travelling back in time to the very roots of their faith, to Abraham, the patriarch. Paul uses this journey to underscore a timeless truth: Even from the very beginning God's favor has always been upon those who walk by faith, and not those who are cursed to rely solely on adherence to rules.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 3:6–14

⁶ ...just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? ⁷ Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-- for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” -- ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

^e Genesis 15:6

^h Genesis 12:3

ⁱ Deuteronomy 27:6

^j Habakkuk 2:4

^k Leviticus 18:5

^l Deuteronomy 21:23

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LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 6

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you share some examples of times when your hard work paid off? Where have you seen the direct benefits of your efforts?
2. What qualities do you look for in someone you want to trust?

DIVING DEEPER

3. Galatians 3:6 begins a particularly challenging section of the letter to the Galatian churches. To understand it fully, please reread Galatians 3:1-5 and review last week's message for context.
4. Carefully read Galatians 3:6-14. How many times does the word "faith" appear? What other words or phrases are used repeatedly in this passage?
5. Paul shifts his focus to defining what the truth of the gospel entails. Challenging the Galatians' emphasis on outward religious practices, he highlights faith as the Lord's primary desire. How would you define faith in the context of your relationship with Jesus?
6. Leaning into the Galatians understanding of the Old Testament in order to illustrate his point about faith, Paul references two key stories about Abraham from Genesis. Please read these accounts and summarize the main events in the chart below.

Genesis 12:1-4

Genesis 15:1-21

7. Based on the Genesis passages you examined, what specific promises did Abraham believe God would fulfill?
8. Paul strongly contrasts faith with obedience to the Law in verse 10, associating the Law with a "curse." Why do you think he uses such intense language to describe the consequences of relying on the Law for salvation?
9. Paul argues that attempting to earn salvation through perfect obedience to the Law is impossible and overwhelming. Have you encountered individuals who struggle with anxiety and doubt about their salvation. According to Paul, what might be happening? Do you ever find yourself slipping into this mindset?
10. What does Paul mean when he says in verses 13 and 14 that Christ became a curse for us? How did Jesus' crucifixion fulfill this role?
11. What are some challenges you face in relying on faith in your daily life?