Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

A Study in Ruth & Galatians

Galatians 3:1–9

Read Galatians 2:15–16; 3:1–9.

1. What had the false teachers "fooled" or "bewitched" the Galatians into believing?

2. Why is Paul so upset by the error the Galatians had fallen into? (v. 1, Gal. 2:21)

3. In light of your answer to question 2, why would the portrait of Jesus Christ crucified be so vital for the Galatians to see? (Gal. 2:20–21; 1 Cor. 2:2)

4. Paul asks the Galatians three questions to challenge their thinking; he wants them to realize that the benefits they have in Christ are a result of God's work, not their own.
   a. How did they receive the Holy Spirit? (vv. 2, 5; Acts 10:44–45; 11:15–17a)

   b. How is their goal of spiritual growth being accomplished? (v. 3b; 2 Cor. 3:18)

   c. How does God work miracles among the Galatians? (v. 5; Acts 3:2–8, 16)

5. How should the experiences of the Galatians in verses 2–5 have guarded them from false teaching?

6. Paul now argues from the life of Abraham. Read verses 6–9. Paul says Abraham "believed" God (v. 6). Do you think he did it just once, at the start of his relationship with God? Read about his life in Genesis 12:1–9; 15:1–6; 17:1–3; 18:22–33; chapter 22.

7. What was the result of Abraham believing God? (v. 6)

8. How do we share in Abraham's blessing? (vv. 7–9)

9. How does God's redemption through Christ's death fulfill the promise he made to Abraham (v. 8)? (3:14; Eph. 3:4–12)

10. How have you tried to live the Christian life by human effort instead of by the Spirit?

11. Have you seen your faith release the power of the Spirit in your life? If so, share an example.