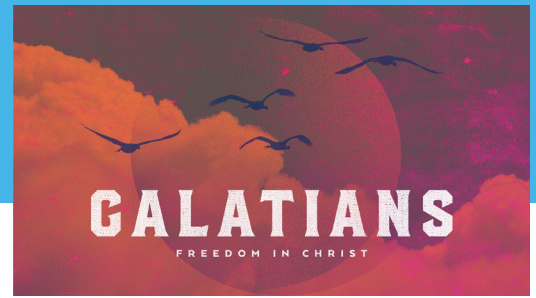


Discussion Questions

April 26, 2026



Galatians 3:6-14 - The Blessing of Abraham

In this week's message, we looked at Galatians 3:6–14, where Paul takes the opposition's own star witness, Abraham, and turns him into the ultimate proof that righteousness has always come by faith. Paul reaches back before circumcision (Genesis 17) or the offering of Isaac (Genesis 22) all the way to Genesis 15, where Abraham simply believed God and was counted righteous. That single detail dismantles the comparison game we all play and undoes the "Gospel Plus" pressure to earn our standing with God. Paul then walks us to the cross, where Christ didn't just take on a curse, He became the curse for us, acting as the ultimate firebreak so the blessing promised to Abraham could flow out to every nation. The heart of that blessing turns out to be a Person: the Holy Spirit. The challenge for us now is a direct question, if the Spirit already lives in you, is He welcome in every room? Or are there doors in your marriage, your grief, your habits, or your past that you've quietly kept locked?.

1. The sermon opened with the story of a pastor paid to call a terrible man a "saint" at his funeral by comparing him to his even worse brother. We all do some version of that math. Where have you caught yourself playing the comparison game to measure your own spiritual standing?
2. Read Galatians 3:6–9. Paul's opponents used Abraham as a trophy for obedience. To counter this, Paul quotes Genesis 15:6, noting that Abraham was credited as righteous before he was circumcised and before he obeyed the command to offer Isaac. Why was this chronological detail a "nuclear bomb" to Paul's original readers, and why does it still matter for us today?
3. The phrase "it was credited to him as righteousness" uses a banking term, something transferred into an empty account. Martin Luther described this kind of faith as a beggar's hand that doesn't make the bread, but just receives it. Where are you tempted to treat faith itself as a kind of work you have to produce to earn God's acceptance?
4. Read Galatians 3:10–14. James pushed back on a common Christian caricature of Judaism as pure works-righteousness, arguing that Jews believed they were already in the covenant by grace. If that's true, what is Paul actually warning the Galatians about here? And where do you see the modern version of that same trap in the church today?
5. Paul gives several pictures of what Jesus did on the cross, what we call Atonement, and the sermon pointed out that no single image holds the whole picture. Theologians have named some of these views - penal substitution (Christ took the punishment we deserved), Christus Victor (Christ defeated the powers of sin, death, and the devil), redemption (Christ paid the ransom to set captives free), and participation (Christ entered our cursed condition from the inside so we could be joined to His resurrection life). Which of these resonates most with how you've typically thought about the cross? Is there one you've rarely considered that stretches your view of what Jesus actually accomplished?
6. Read Galatians 3:14 alongside Ezekiel 36:26–27. We often think of the "blessing of Abraham" as land, descendants, or a vague sense of God's favor. But the sermon argued, that Paul says the Holy Spirit is the heart of the blessing, and that the blessing and the Spirit arrive together from the same cross. Does viewing the Holy Spirit as a central part of salvation, rather than just a bonus feature, shift your perspective on your relationship with Him?
7. A challenging question was asked "At salvation, you have the Holy Spirit. But does the Holy Spirit have you?" The sermon named several rooms we often keep locked, habitual sin, marriages that have grown cold, unprocessed grief, and wounds from things done to us. Without oversharing, what generally makes us so hesitant to invite the Spirit into those painful or hidden areas? And what would it look like this week to crack one of those doors open, even slightly? How can this group pray for you as you do?

Closing Prayer

Spend time praying for each other specifically around the doors that were named. Thank God that the curse has already been broken, that the blessing has already been given, and that His Spirit already lives in each believer in the room.

Galatians 3:6–9, 13-14 (NLT)

In the same way, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." The real children of Abraham, then, are those who put their faith in God. What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you." So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith...

But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:6–9 (NIV)

So also Abraham 'believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' 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.

Genesis 15:6 (NIV)

Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Abraham 'believed God, and it was credited [reckoned] to him as righteousness

Martin Luther

Faith is like a beggar's hand. It does not make the bread. It just receives it.

Galatians 3:7 (NIV)

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

Galatians 3:8 (NIV)

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith

Galatians 3:8 & Genesis 12:3

All nations will be blessed through you.

Galatians 3:10–12 (NIV)

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.' Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because 'the righteous will live by faith.' The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, 'The person who does these things will live by them.'

James 2:10 (NIV)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Galatians 3:13 (NIV)

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 pole.'

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.

Deuteronomy 21:23

Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.

Galatians 3:13 (NIV)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law..

Redeem = To pay a price to set someone free.

Christ became the curse, that is participation

Christ paid the price, that is redemption

Christ broke the curse's power, that is victory

Scripture gives us many images to describe what happened on the cross [Atonement]

- A courtroom [Penal Substitution]
- A slave market [Ransom]
- A family reunion [Reconciliation]
- Christ as the Victor [Christus Victor]
- A sacrifice at the altar [Sacrificial]

All of them are true, but no single image gives us the whole picture

If interested, read Scot McKnight, A Community Called Atonement

Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NLT)

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you...

Galatians 3:14 (NIV)

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.

Why did Christ become the curse & redeem us?

1. So the blessing of Abraham could come to the Gentiles
2. So we could receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by faith

The heart of Abraham's blessing was God Himself dwelling within His people

This passage has been doing three things at once

WHOSE family you are in - Abraham's, through faith

WHAT IT COST - The Son of God becoming a curse

HOW YOU KNOW - The Spirit within you

Is the Spirit welcome?

- Habitual Patterns that rob us of life and joy
- Our marriage
- Grief

At salvation, you have the Holy Spirit. But does the Holy Spirit have you?