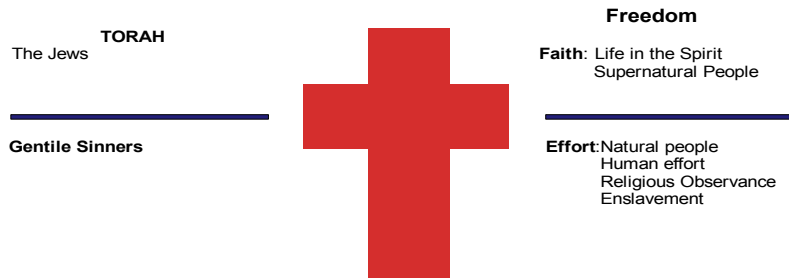


## LIVING THE HIGH LIFE

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### JESUS



### 1. The demonic dimension of the Battle

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you! (Galatians 3:1)*

*Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you. (Galatians 4:8-11)*

The NIV translates stoicheia as weak and miserable principals, however Paul clearly aligns the stoicheia in verse 8 to demonic spirits that want to enslave us. Gordon Fee and many other leading biblical scholars equate the Stoicheia with demonic powers that shape the way people think and behave.

- The enemies scheme is to:
  - a) enslave (Ch 4:10)
  - b) bewitch (Ch 3:1)
  - c) deceive (Ch 6:7)
  - d) confuse (Ch 1:7)
  - e) Persecute/Intimidate (Ch 2:12)
  - f) Rob the life & power of the Spirit

## 2. **Our Journey into THE BLESSING**

*The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." 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 tree." 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.*

(Galatians 3: 12-14)

## 3. **The Curse is removed. The Blessing is released**

We have been redeemed (set free from slavery) by the price paid by Jesus on the Cross in order to bring us The Blessing given to Abraham. This Blessing is to be: at peace with God/child of God/made righteous and acceptable (see Genesis 15).

This Blessing comes to the Gentile through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We receive this Blessing by faith in order that we might receive the promised Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Ultimate Blessing in this life and through his indwelling presence he empowers us to live the supernatural life and he empowers us to be blessed in every way, just as Abraham was.

## 4. **Living the High Life of the Spirit**

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Galatians 3:1-5 is an extraordinary passage where Paul appeals to their experience of the Spirit before they were pressurized to embrace Torah:

V:2 the initial receiving of the Spirit at salvation.

V:4 the ongoing experience of the Spirit.

V:5 the present experience of the Spirit.

Sunday 21st February 2010

Experiencing the supernatural indwelling and empowering presence of the Spirit is the normal evidence of the presence of the Spirit. See also the acts of the Apostles/I&II Corinthians/Colosians...

- A key word regarding the Spirit is V:5 – does God supply you abundantly and completely with his Spirit and work miracles among you....
- Foundational to our ongoing experience of the presence and power of the Spirit is our understanding of:
  - a) The generosity and desire of God to supernaturally empower us.
  - b) Our understanding of who we are as his children.

## 5. Our Challenge Today

- To discern religious mindsets and traditions that hinder the work of the Spirit.  
*... you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.*  
(Mathew 15:6)
- The Galatians were losing their dependence on an experience of the dynamic power of the Spirit as their inheritance and birthright. In our day and in our experience in this culture, this type of supernatural reality tends to be confined to big events, special occasions.
- We need radical reform to discover our inheritance, both personal and corporate.

## 6. Personal Hunger

This kind of encounter and permanent/continuous experience of the Spirit can only come as each of us pursues the way of the Spirit and allows Christ to cut away our human effort/human wisdom.

As a church we need corporately to understand what we are doing and not expect anyone (including the Leadership) to deliver it! Note that Paul addresses the Galatian church not the leaders of the Galatian church – this is a corporate faith expectation creating a culture of hunger and desperation for the work of the Spirit.

**MARCH 16-20**

**JM1 CONFERENCE**

**1. Prophetic picture/word to pray in over the Conference**

**2. From Building with tacks to long secure nails**

**Withholding**

"I can't afford to..."

→

**Generosity**

"what a chance to bless..."

**Poverty**

"What a drain it will be..."

→

**Abundance**

"There is going to be so much joy and life.."

**Apathy**

- really?  
- so what?

→

**Spiritual alertness**

"I can see God moving ..."

**Religious Duty**

"It's another Conference  
I better do something.."

→

**Obedience**

"Lord what are you asking of  
me..."

**Insignificance**

"I'm not really needed.."

→

**Stature in Christ**

"I have something unique to  
bless with.."