

Faith-Minded Living vs. Carnal-Minded Living

Scripture: Galatians 3:1-9

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified!

² The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard?

³ Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh?

⁴ Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing.

⁵ Well then, does God^[a] supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

⁶ Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,”

⁷ so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.

⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.”

⁹ For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

Sermon

I. Understanding the Carnal-Minded Believer (v. 1)

A. Bewitched – captivated/enchanted/charmed/beguiled

B. Who has bewitched? – Jewish Christians who wanted to impose Jewish customs on Gentile believers

C. Foolishness – witnesses of Jesus Christ’s crucifixion (saw with their eyes)

1. John 20:27-29 (Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe)

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2. 1 Cor. 2:9 (Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him)

D. Other labels of foolishness

1. Thoughtless
2. Superficial
 - a. Prov. 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction
3. Carnal-minded
 - a. 1 Cor. 2:14 – The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

II. Understanding If Living a Life in the Spirit (vv. 2-5)

A. Examine the initial reception of the Holy Spirit (v. 2)

1. What fruits did you carry? (Gal. 5:21-22)

B. Examine current placement of living with the Holy Spirit (v. 3)

1. Check emotional standpoint (hopelessness, fear, confusion, doubt, anxiety, discomfort)
2. Prayer life and Word– nonexistent, communication lacking, spiritual stagnation

C. Examine previous experiences living with the Holy Spirit (v. 4)

1. Check out spiritual experiences
2. Testimony that God moved with you (do not quench the fire once given)

D. Examine how God operates with His Holy Spirit (v. 5)

1. Praying in the spirit (Ephesians 6:18 – With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit)
2. Use of spiritual gifts (this example – the gift of miracles [1 Cor. 12:10])
3. Life of faith (not swayed by man's opinion)

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III. Understanding the Underlying Truth of a Spirit-filled Life (vv. 6-9)

A. Example of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-2)

1. Righteousness began when he believed
2. Command: leave his family and home country
3. Consequence of command: God will bless his seed, make a nation out of him, and bless those who bless him

IV. Understanding Truths About Activating Faith

- A. Truth 1 – Hab. 2:4 – Look at the proud one; his soul is not right within him, but the righteous will live by his faith
- B. Truth 2 – Man Stands in Correct Standing with The Lord
- C. Truth 3 – God Entrusts His Ways to Those Who Believe
- D. Truth 4 – Man understands the purpose of his season