

Our Desperate Need for the Spirit

Galatians 3:1-5

- I. We often try to live the Christian life on a completely different basis than how we were saved (Galatians 3:1-2).
 - A. As believers we are sometimes ignorant about the Christian life – *clear* about how we are saved by Christ’s death, but *confused* about how to live the Christian life (Galatians 3:1).
 - B. As believers we were saved eternally and given the Holy Spirit by faith, not by works of the flesh (Galatians 3:1-2).
 - Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit today (John 14:16-17; Acts 15:8; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

- II. Our efforts to become a “good Christian” by the power of our flesh instead of the Spirit are useless (Galatians 3:3).
 - A. Often we try desperately to be “good” by the power of our flesh – not through the power of the Spirit who saved us.
 - The Holy Spirit “saved” us (Titus 3:4-6).
 - Our flesh only does what serves us and our pride – both the “good” things we attempt as well as blatant worldly sin.

 - B. The “flesh” is our natural sinful nature that cannot produce true godliness (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:18; John 6:63).
 - Only the Holy Spirit (not the flesh) can produce true godliness (John 6:63; Galatians 5:19-23).
See diagram on below
 - Our flesh causes us to *pretend* to be holy instead of *being* holy (Mark 12:38-40).

- III. God’s transforming power is only available as we depend desperately on the Spirit (Galatians 3:4-5).
 - A. God gave the Galatians power to withstand persecution through the Spirit (3:4).
 - B. God designed all life as believers to be miraculous so that we must live by faith – dependent on the Spirit to be godly (3:5).

