

***The Spiritual Advantages of Faith***  
***Galatians 3:6-14***

**Introduction:** At different times in our lives, we all have spiritual insecurities – wondering if we’ve “got what it takes” to walk with God in this life. Sometimes we wonder if we’ve missed some “key” that will unlock the Christian life for us. Perhaps we even wonder whether “faith in Christ” really makes that much difference in our lives. In Galatians 3:6-14 Paul addresses this very issue. The Gentile believers in the Galatian church were made to feel like if only they would keep the Jewish law their spiritual lives would be complete. You can imagine how these Gentile believers might start second-guessing themselves and wondering if perhaps they’d missed something. Maybe faith in Jesus wasn’t really enough. . . Maybe their faith wasn’t really complete. . . To that mindset Paul says ***you have already been given every spiritual advantage through faith in Jesus Christ.***

**Opening Discussion:** Think of a time when you had a conversation with someone who was very confident about some issue (examples: parenting, cell phone plans, Macs vs. PCs, some area of theology, etc.). Did the other person’s confidence make you second-guess yourself? Why or why not?

**Read Galatians 3:6-14.**

1. Why was it strategic (in verses 6-9) for Paul to show that his message was consistent with Abraham’s experience?
2. Read Genesis 15:5-6. In light of Abraham’s experience in Genesis 15, what is Paul’s point in Galatians 3:6-7?
3. Read Genesis 12:1-3. How does this passage in Genesis support Paul’s argument that “God would justify the Gentiles by faith” (Galatians 3:8)?

Steve said:

If you’re a believer, ***you*** have been blessed with Abraham the believer. We don’t often stop to think about this, but as believers in Jesus, we are the recipients of the blessings promised to Abraham 4,500 years ago! The life we’ve been given is the fulfillment of the promise made ***to Abraham!*** Instead of thinking, “What has God done for me lately” we should appreciate the blessing of living when we do in the flow of salvation history (after the cross and resurrection).

4. How might the knowledge that we’ve been “blessed with Abraham the believer” affect the way we think about our lives?

5. How does being “of the works of the Law” place a person under a curse (verses 10-12)?
6. How did Jesus’ death on a wooden cross qualify Him to redeem us from the curse of the Law?

Steve said:

When you and I start feeling spiritually insecure, we need to remember [that Jesus redeemed us]. Jesus took the curse that we deserved because of our sinfulness. How dare we think that His redemption wasn’t enough! We need to go back to this foundational truth that Jesus paid the highest price that could possibly be paid in order to redeem us.

7. What difference might the truth that we’ve been redeemed by Jesus on the cross make in our everyday life?
8. Verse 14 tells us that the blessing of Abraham was ultimately the promised Holy Spirit. What is your understanding of the working of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament (under the old covenant)?

Steve said:

In the Old Covenant believers experienced the Holy Spirit, but the promise that the Holy Spirit would indwell every single believer was something in the distant future. That would happen in the fullness of time, in the age of fulfillment, when the Messiah came and established the Kingdom of God. In other words, our common experience of receiving the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus is something that people like Abraham, David, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah could only dream about.

9. How might we expect the indwelling Holy Spirit to affect our everyday lives?
10. In the conclusion Steve had you bring to mind “the most difficult circumstance” you’re facing right now. Discuss what difference the truths we’ve discussed in this passage make in this circumstance.