

## By Works of Law? Or Hearing with Faith?

Have you ever had someone make you a promise—and then break it? Broken promises sting because they remind us that people can let us down. But when promises are kept, they carry incredible weight.

Galatians 3 is about God the Father promising an inheritance to His children. The word *promise* shows up in this chapter more than in any other chapter of the New Testament. And alongside *promise*, Paul uses the word *inheritance*. He talks about being sons of God, inheriting a promise made by God.

But here's what's amazing: Galatians 3 doesn't just tell us that God made a promise—it tells us exactly how we receive that promised inheritance. The answer is wrapped up in one word Paul uses fifteen times in this chapter: *faith*.

## INHERITING GOD'S PROMISES DOES NOT COME BY WORKS OF THE LAW, BUT BY HEARING WITH FAITH.

I want to highlight six promises of God that do not come by works of the law, but only by hearing with faith.

**Promise #1 – God promised His Spirit, and by faith in Jesus, we receive His Spirit (Galatians 3:1–5).**

*3 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2 Let me ask you only this: **Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?** 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so **by works of the law, or by hearing with faith** -*

The answer is obvious. They received the Spirit by hearing with faith, not by works of the Law. God wasn't asking them to achieve some level of goodness. He was asking them to see His Son crucified for them and believe. It's not about keeping a list of rules, it's about looking to what Jesus did for us and believing.

**Promise #2 – God promised blessings for Abraham's family, and by faith in Jesus, we are Abraham's children (Galatians 3:6–9).**

*6 just as Abraham “**believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness**”? 7 Know then that it is those*

*of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached **the gospel** beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9 So then, **those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.***

To be justified means that God declares you righteous in His sight. And how does He do that? The same way He did for Abraham: by faith. Genesis 15:6 says it clearly—“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

If you are a believer, you are part of Abraham’s family, destined for the blessings of God. You inherit his blessing—not by physical descent, but by spiritual descent.

**Promise #3 – God promised a Redeemer, and by faith in Jesus, we are freed from the curse (Galatians 3:10–14).**

*10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a **curse**; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” 11 Now it is evident that **no one is justified before God by the law**, for “The righteous*

***shall live by faith.***” 12 ***But the law is not of faith,*** rather “*The one who does them shall live by them.*” 13 ***Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” — 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.***

Paul quoted the Old Testament four times to prove the point. And each quote teaches us something:

1. The Law demands perfection—but none of us are perfect.
2. Being right with God is not about keeping the law, it’s about living by faith.
3. Living by the law is not the same as living by faith.
4. Trusting the law will keep you under the curse, but trusting Jesus will free you from the curse—because He took it for us.

**Promise #4 – God promised an inheritance, and by faith in Jesus, we receive His blessings (Galatians 3:15–18).**

*15 To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified. 16 Now the **promises** were made to*

*Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your **offspring**,” who is **Christ**. 17 This is what I mean: the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the **promise** void. 18 For if the **inheritance** comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.*

God does not say, “In the law, all the families shall be blessed.” Rather, God promised before the Law came into effect, “In Christ, the offspring of Abraham, comes the blessing.”

**Promise #5 – God promised freedom from the law, and by faith in Jesus, we are no longer imprisoned under it (Galatians 3:19–25). *Why the Law? 5 reasons***

**Reason #1 – The Law was given to expose our sin.**  
*19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions...*

**Reason #2 – The Law was given to show that no law can give life.** *21 ... For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.*

**Reason #3 – The Law was given to imprison us under sin.** *22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

**Reason #4 – The Law was given to act as a guardian.** *24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came,”*

**Reason #5 – The Law was given to lead us to Christ.** *24 in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian,*

**Promise #6 – God promised full sonship, and by faith in Jesus, we are His sons and heirs (Galatians 3:26–29).**

*For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

