

I. Opening Scripture and Introduction

Galatians 3:1-9 (NKJV) *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?** Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? **Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?** — just as Abraham ‘believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, ‘In you all the nations shall be blessed.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham”*

- A. Miracles/Supernatural things are received by faith but manifested by the Spirit.
- B. We supply the faith; the Holy Spirit supplies the miracle.
- C. The New Covenant life – is a life of faith – and a life in the Spirit.
- D. Whatever we received of the Lord – comes by faith – and the Spirit. *My part is the faith; His part is the Spirit.*
- E. **Galatians 3:5 (AMP)** *“So then, does He who supplies you with His [marvelous Holy] Spirit and works miracles among you, do it as a result of the works of the Law [which you perform], or because you [believe confidently in the message which you] heard with faith”*
 - 1. Faith releases a supply: *A supply of the Spirit; a supply of the supernatural; a supply of fruit.*
 - 2. Whatever we need more of – it must come through the supply of the Spirit.
 - 3. The Galatians were leaving the supply of the Spirit and going back to the limited supply of the law/old covenant.
 - 4. In the new covenant/ God is the supply – through grace/faith/the Spirit.
 - 5. My position is not to try to supply fruit by earning/performing.
 - 6. My position is to HEAR/and through the *hearing of faith*- faith opens the door for the supply of the Spirit.
 - 7. Whatever I receive, it is BY THE SPIRIT!

II. Depending Upon the Work of The Spirit

- A. **I refuse to attempt to manifest things by my flesh that are the responsibility of the Spirit.**
 - 1. We are to put off the old man and put on the new man (Eph 4:22-24)

2. **1 Corinthians 9:27(NKJV)** (Paul speaking) *“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*
3. We are to depend on the work of the Spirit vs the work of our flesh (Our natural abilities)
4. **Ephesians 3:7 (NKJV)** (Paul speaking) *“of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the **effective working of His power.**”*

Ephesians 3:7 (MSG) *“I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.”*

5. **Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)** *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that worketh in us**”*

Ephesians 3:20 (AMP) *“Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dreams], according to His **power that is at work within us**”*

6. **1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)** *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men **but in the power of God.**”*

Pastor’s Note: *Paul stressed the message of depending upon the Spirit. He gave no credit to His flesh in doing anything including the works of ministry. Paul accredited every good thing that happened in him and through him to THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT!*

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WHATEVER FRUIT OCCURS IN/THROUGH OUR LIFE – IT IS BY THE SPIRIT!

- B. Turning our focus and efforts to an attempt of manifesting those things that belong to the Spirit’s work – is a turn in the wrong direction.

1. Fruit is important!

John 15:1-8 (NKJV) *“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that **does not bear fruit** He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes**, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless **it abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He **who abides in Me**, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone **does not abide** in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is*

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*withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **If you abide in Me**, and My **words abide** in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

Pastor’s Note: From these scriptures, we may clearly see that it is God’s will for every believer to bear fruit – **and once we are bearing fruit, He prunes us so that we may bear more fruit. GOAL = Greater Fruit!**

2. Notice the terms of SUCCESSFUL fruit bearing.

- a. *It is not that the branches try, try, and try to bear fruit.*
- b. *It is not that the branches work hard enough to squeeze a few good works out (“turning over a new leaf”).*
- c. *IT IS that they ABIDE! = 7 references to ABIDING in order to bear fruit – or the lack of abiding causing a lack of fruit.*
- d. **Abide:** to remain – not to depart – kept continually – to await or wait for
 - Not to depart, not to leave – to continue to be present – UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP.
 - TO BE constantly present.
 - To remain in a state – as ONE – not to become ANOTHER – or different.
- e. *The instruction of Jesus is to: “...receive Me, by faith become part of Me, be determined to never leave Me. STAY PUT, REMAIN, ABIDE in spite of things that seek to move you (cause you to leave Me).”*
- f. *Jesus then reminds them: “YOU HAVE NO FRUIT APART FROM ME! ANY attempt to produce fruit (of yourself, your works, your own changes) is FUTILE – EVEN IF IT LOOKS FRUITFUL – IF IT IS APART FROM ME, IT ISN’T GENUINE ACCEPTABLE FRUIT!” **Fruit acquired through self-righteousness is unacceptable.***
- g. *The fruit that will be acceptable will be produced by the SPIRIT. **Fruit that comes by cooperating with and relying upon the Holy Spirit to produce it WILL BE LASTING FRUIT.***

3. My Cooperation

- a. **I must “abide” – stay close, cultivate, and develop in my relationship with the Lord.**
 - ***Fruitfulness comes to those who are close to the vine.***
 - ***Fruitfulness comes to those who draw strength from the vine.***
 - ***Fruitfulness comes to those who are well nourished by the vine.***
 - ***Fruitfulness does not come to those who are disconnected from the vine.***

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- b. **Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)** *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
- **Yes, we lay aside weights and sin.**
 - **How? By looking unto Jesus.**
- c. **Looking – to turn your eyes away from other things and fix them on something else.**
- **Here, the key to overcoming weights and sins is not fixing your eyes on your weights and sins – this will result in CONDEMNATION!**
 - *Note: Condemnation is never from the Lord and doesn’t take you forward. It always sets you back.*
 - **We ARE TO RE-FOCUS AND STAY FOCUSED ON JESUS, the Author (the Beginning) and the Finisher (the End) OF OUR FAITH!**
 - **My faith started by looking at Jesus, and successful faith ends – reaches the goal – by looking at Jesus.**
 - **Looking is abiding.**

Pastor’s Note: What are you looking at? What has your attention? *Failures or Jesus? Sin or the righteousness of Jesus? Weakness or the strength of Jesus? Sickness or the healing of Jesus?*

- *There is NO lack as long as I am looking at Him – ABIDING!*
 - *There is great lack as long as I am looking at SELF. “Self-abiding” is abiding in weakness, sin, unrighteousness, etc.*
- d. **Psalm 1:1-3 (NLT)** *“Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.”*
- e. **Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV)** *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”*

(NLT) *“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not*

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bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit."

(ERV) *"But those who trust in the LORD will be blessed. They know that the LORD will do what he says. They will be strong like trees planted near a stream that send out roots to the water. They have nothing to fear when the days get hot. Their leaves are always green. They never worry, even in a year that has no rain. They always produce fruit."*

- f. **Go back to Jeremiah 17:5-6 (AMP)** *"Thus says the LORD, 'Cursed is the man who trusts in and relies on mankind, making [weak, faulty human] flesh his strength, and whose mind and heart turn away from the LORD. For he will be like a shrub in the [parched] desert; and shall not see prosperity when it comes, but shall live in the rocky places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land'."*