

## Grace That Sets Us Free (Galatians 3)

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### Day 1 — Bewitched by Better Effort

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:1–5

Paul doesn't open gently. He opens urgently. *"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?"* Something strange had happened. These believers hadn't rejected Jesus—but they had begun to distrust grace. What God started through the Spirit, they now tried to finish through self-effort.

They had seen Christ clearly portrayed as crucified. They had received the Spirit. Their lives had been changed. And yet, they slowly drifted toward the idea that God's approval depended on their performance.

This kind of drift is subtle. It often sounds spiritual. We say things like, *"I just need to try harder,"* or *"God must be disappointed in me."* But beneath those thoughts is a quiet lie: that grace gets us started, but effort keeps us going.

Paul reminds them—and us—that faith isn't something we graduate from. The Christian life doesn't move from grace to grit. It moves from grace to deeper grace.

### Reflection Questions:

- Where do you feel pressure to "prove" yourself spiritually?
- What would it look like to trust the Spirit today instead of your effort?

### Prayer:

Jesus, I confess how easily I drift toward self-reliance. Pull me back to the cross. Teach me to live by grace from beginning to end.

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## Day 2 — Experience Confirms Grace

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:2–5; Romans 8:1–4

Paul asks the Galatians to remember their own story. “*Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?*” The answer was obvious. God had moved powerfully among them—not because they obeyed the Law, but because they believed the gospel.

Their experience confirmed a deep truth: God works through grace, not law. The Spirit who saves is the same Spirit who sustains. Yet many believers still assume that while grace saves us, strength must carry us the rest of the way.

Romans 8 tells a different story. What the Law could never do—because of our weakness—God accomplished through His Son and by His Spirit. There is no condemnation for those in Christ, and no shortage of power for those who walk by the Spirit.

Grace doesn’t just forgive us; it empowers us to live transformed lives.

### Reflection Questions:

- Where are you trying to live the Christian life in your own strength?
- How have you personally seen God work through grace in your life?

### Prayer:

Holy Spirit, I invite You to lead me today. Free me from condemnation and empower me to walk in newness of life.

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## Day 3 — Faith Saves What Law Can’t

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:6–12

When the debate turns theological, Paul points to Abraham. Long before the Law existed, Abraham was declared righteous—not because he obeyed perfectly, but because he believed God’s promise.

This exposes the fatal flaw of legalism. The Law doesn’t grade on a curve. It demands flawless obedience. One failure places us under its curse. That’s why Scripture is so clear: *no one* is justified by the Law.

Faith, however, rests not on what we do, but on what God has promised. The Law says, “*Do this and live.*” The gospel says, “*Believe, and you will live.*” Faith isn’t passive—it’s trusting the right thing.

The question isn’t whether we take obedience seriously. The question is what we trust to make us right with God.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Do you measure your relationship with God by performance or promise?
- What would it mean to truly rest in God’s promise today?

**Prayer:**

God, help me stop striving for righteousness I can’t earn. Teach me to trust Your promise and live by faith.

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**Day 4 — Redeemed from the Curse**

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:13–14

Paul reaches the heart of the gospel: “*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.*” The Law condemned us—but Jesus took that condemnation upon Himself.

Every failure, every accusation, every sentence of guilt was nailed to the cross. Christ bore the curse so we could receive the blessing promised to Abraham. And that blessing is not only forgiveness—it’s the gift of the Spirit.

Many believers believe Jesus died for their sins, but still live under the weight of shame. Yet grace doesn’t just cancel debt; it restores relationship. Because Christ became a curse, we are fully and forever free once we enter into a relationship with Him.

Salvation was never about your strength. It has always been about Christ’s sacrifice.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What burdens of guilt or shame are you still carrying?
- How does the cross speak directly to those struggles?

**Prayer:**

Jesus, thank You for bearing my curse. Help me live today in the freedom and joy You purchased.

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## **Day 5 — From Captivity to Family**

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:23–29

Before Christ came, the Law acted like a guardian—restricting, correcting, and revealing sin. It was never meant to save; it was meant to lead. And once Christ arrived, its role was fulfilled.

Now, through faith, we are no longer captives—we are children. In Christ, every dividing line collapses. Status, background, ethnicity, and gender have no power to separate us from God’s family.

Grace doesn’t just rescue us from sin; it gives us a new identity. We are clothed with Christ. We belong. We are heirs of God’s promise.

Grace is not merely comforting—it’s confrontational. It leaves no room for pride and no excuse for despair.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Are you living like someone still under a guardian—or like a child of God?
- How does your identity in Christ reshape how you see yourself and others?

### **Prayer:**

Father, thank You for making me Your child through Christ. Teach me to live boldly, humbly, and freely in Your grace.