

The Holy Spirit in Your Life
International Bible Lesson
Galatians 3:1-14
Sunday, February 12, 2012
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“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?” (Galatians 3:2—KJV).

“Tell me this one thing: did you receive God’s Spirit by doing what the Law requires or by hearing the gospel and believing it?” (Galatians 3:2—GNB).

“The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard?” (Galatians 3:2—NRSV).

When believers accept the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ as His dying for their sins, God puts them into a right relationship with Him. Because God knows how difficult it is for believers to remain loyal, trustworthy, and true to God in everything, God also sends the Holy Spirit to live within them.

When God justifies and sanctifies believers in Jesus Christ, He sets them apart from sin to live a holy life of service. God achieves His purpose through the Holy Spirit guiding and enabling believers to live as He intends. The Spirit gives us wisdom when making daily decisions, so we can do God’s will throughout the day. When we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit within us, the Holy Spirit will help us interpret and properly apply what the Bible teaches. Bible study and prayer go together to help us understand the ways and words of God. When our human resolutions and strength fail us, the Holy Spirit within can empower us to do right when facing any temptations. If we cannot pray because of our suffering, groaning, and sighing, the Holy Spirit will pray for us according to the will of God. From a study of the entire Bible, we can learn more about what the Holy Spirit wants to do in the life of every believer; such as, enable us to call God our Father (Galatians 4:6). Our heavenly Father will give us the Holy Spirit and everything we need forever, not by doing the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ.

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Thinking Further

1. According to Paul in Galatians 3:1-14, how do we receive the Holy Spirit into our lives? Why do we need the Holy Spirit in our lives?

2. In Galatians 3:1-14, how many times does Paul use some form of the word “believe” (such as, believe, believed, believing)? Look up the word “believe” in a dictionary. What does the word “believe” mean?

3. Why is believing important? What does Paul say people should believe or need to believe?

4. Look up the word “faith” in the dictionary. What does the word “faith” mean? In Galatians 3:1-14, how does Paul use the word “faith.” How are the meanings of the words “believe” and “faith” similar or different?

5. What happens to people when they rely on the works of the law in order to be justified or right with God? How can you recognize people who do this, and how might you help them?