

FINDING FREEDOM - GALATIANS PART III

“KEEP YOURSELF FREE”

February 2-3, 2008

Ice Breaker

Have you experienced a time when someone close to you got “off track” in their relationship with the Lord and it became more about rules than relationship? How did you respond?

Introduction

In today’s study, we will be talking about the importance of living by faith. We are saved by grace and we continue our walk with God by grace. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. If we try to live the Christian life in our own power we will fail. We can only live a victorious life through the power of God. This means trusting God even in the face of the impossible. George Muller once said, “*Faith begins where man's power ends.*”

Worship Thought

Read together Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

Thank God for His gift of salvation!

Sing or read together:

All to Jesus, I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

[Chorus]

All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

[Chorus]

All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

[Chorus]

All to Jesus, I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

[Chorus]

All to Jesus I surrender;
Now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation!
Glory, glory, to His Name!

[Chorus]

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

This Week’s Memory Verse

Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Life Example

Sometimes we only see a small part of the big picture. We try to understand or come up with an answer in our limited knowledge of the subject. We can easily arrive at a wrong conclusion either through ignorance or misunderstanding.

There is a fable that comes out of India that speaks of six men who approach an elephant in the dark. Not knowing what it is, each man touches a different part of the elephant and comes to a different

conclusion. The one who touches the leg says, “It must be a pillar.” The one who touches the tail says, “No, it is a rope.” The one who touches the trunk says, “It has to be a tree branch.” The one who touches an ear says, “It is like a hand fan.” “No, it is like a wall,” says the one who touches the belly. Finally, the last man touches a tusk and says, “It is like a solid pipe.”

Each man came to his own conclusion honestly, but incorrectly. God knows the whole picture. He sees from all angles, and He sees them in the light. Many people have trouble understanding grace because, in our finite minds, they cannot grasp the fact that an All Powerful God could possibly love us in spite of our weakness and sin. The truth, though, is stated in Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” We may not fully understand the depth of God’s love, but let’s rejoice and thank Him for His grace.

Key Passage

Galatians 3:1-29 - Paul uses the words “faith” and “believe” fourteen times in this chapter. What specifically is he encouraging the Galatians to believe and have faith in?

Discussion Questions

► **FINDING FREEDOM – BREAKING FREE FROM THE LAW (Galatians 3:3)**

How were some of the Galatian Christians trying to live by the law? What was the purpose of the law? How do Christians fall into “law living” today?

► **FINDING FREEDOM – LIVING BY THE SPIRIT**

What does it mean to live by the Spirit? What role does faith play in living by the Spirit? What hinders you from living by the Spirit? How do you know when you are living in the Spirit?

Prayer/Ministry

Ask God to allow you to recognize when you are living out of the flesh (power of man), and when you are living out of the Spirit (power of God).

Going Deeper

Read Genesis 12:1-4:

On what basis did Abraham obey God’s instructions?

Read Romans 4:1-25:

How was Abraham justified?

Read Hebrews 11:8-12:

In what ways did Abraham show faith in the face of the impossible?

Read Hebrews 11:6:

Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

In which area of your life do you need to trust and believe God beyond what you can see with your own eyes? Bring these areas to God and ask for His supernatural and miraculous intervention.

Next Week’s Memory Verse

Galatians 3:11, Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.”