



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Galatians

### Lesson 17 Holy Spirit Part 01

#### Present day churches without the leading of Holy Spirit

**Galatians 3:1-3**, *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? <sup>2</sup>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? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

The Spirit of God gifts believers and how He works through them in the manifestation and operation of those gifts for the building of the body. Holy Spirit was at the very focal point of life in the church and interest in the body of Christ.

Christians will acknowledge that our life in Christ was begun by the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:3**, *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.*

Since we have been in the Spirit, we can never attain perfection by the Flesh!

Whether wittingly or unwittingly, we have in the church today a kind of Christianity that from a pragmatic viewpoint believes that though it was begun in the Spirit it somehow can be perfected in the flesh. Same was with Galatians!

Paul wants them to understand that sanctification comes by trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, that as you were saved by faith you are sustained and perfected by faith.

When you have trusted in the saving work of the Spirit, so you must trust in the sanctifying work of the Spirit. No one who has begun by the Spirit and entered into eternal life can have that life perfected by the flesh.

No wonder Paul calls them foolish twice, once in verse 1 and once in verse 3. Why?

They were foolish because they started out trusting in God, in the Holy Spirit, for their salvation, and then compromised the gospel of grace by developing a system of human effort by which they would then be sanctified.

- If a person receives eternal salvation through trusting in the crucified Christ,

- If a person receiving the fullness of the indwelling Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation,
- If a person retains the indwelling Spirit through all his Christian experience,

Then why in the world would he trade in supernatural power for human effort?

You cannot achieve a spiritual maturity or perfection with a natural means.

Without the Holy Spirit none of us would ever be born again. Without the Holy Spirit's constant, sanctifying, sustaining, preserving work, the spiritual life of the Christian would be drop dead.

A pseudo-Christian humanism that has literally infiltrated the church today and we have become man-centered.

The Roman Catholic Church had become an entity political as well as religious for about 1,000 years from 500 to 1,500 A.D. This period is known as dark ages of the church history. During this time western culture crept into the church.

The development of human was not so vast as these days since there was no printing press and no mass material available. Hence people were kept in ignorance and as a result there was not much progress.

Then the reformation took place in the late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Reformation brought in an explosion of independent thinking. The Reformation broke the chains of Romanism. Suddenly after this independent thinking brought creativity in the next two centuries.

People were become creative and invented the printing press. This brought huge amount of materials whereby people who were kept in darkness were able to study, analyze, criticize and evaluate the truth.

There was a paradigm shift!

What followed the dark ages was the age of Enlightenment! Not only in the Christianity but also in every walk of mankind. Industrial revolution began to peak its level thus bringing new inventive ideas and new products to enhance human life style. Creative and inventive mode of human gave birth to rationalism.

What is the rationalism and what rationalism giving birth to?

The worship of the human intellect!

Suddenly man found out that he had

- ✓ all kinds of ideas,
- ✓ all kinds of creative genius,
- ✓ all kinds of capability to develop
- ✓ all kinds of wonderful things and

begin to take control of his world.

The rationalism didn't take long time for the man to say that the mind is God.

The most famous book of that time called, *The Age of Reason*. This book debunks the Bible and exalts the human mind as the ultimate deity.

What Rationalism gave birth to?

Rationalism gave birth to liberal theology.

What did the Liberal Theology do?

It went back to the Bible and said whatever is not rational, we will throw that out of the Church.

Man began to worship his mind.

Whenever there is great achievement, man turns from the supernatural to the natural and begins to see the tremendous capabilities of his own mind.

We live in a in a very sophisticated, complex, advanced, and amazingly advanced culture. Humans have accomplished unbelievable things in this culture. Man begins to be literally egotistic in terms of worshiping and loving his own intellect.

Man has become,

- ✓ so resourceful,
- ✓ so imaginative,
- ✓ so capable, and

thinks he has answers for everything.

So, the man's achievements of an amazingly advanced culture lead him to believe that his ability is greater than actually it is. Result: man look to himself for all of his answers and to the systems that he can devise.

Let me illustrate this point simply by one thing, which is prayer.

Why people are not interested in prayer?

Why the church gets no attraction from the people for prayer?

Why there is such disinterest in individual and corporate prayers?

The reason is directly related to this egotistical, man-centred view that he can solve all his own problems.

Since I can solve my problems and I have answers for my questions then why should I pray?

Remember that it is not that man don't

- ✓ understand the theology of prayer,
- ✓ understand the command to pray,
- ✓ understand the elements of prayer, and
- ✓ need to pray.

For what?

Give us this day our daily bread!

Are you kidding me?

I've got more daily bread than I care to have.

What do we need?

We have developed the systems to deal with everything.

This is the reason for the decline in prayer.

**2 Corinthians 10:4**, *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

We are fighting the spiritual battle on the flesh.

We have lost the sense of need for prayer and our dependence on the Holy Spirit.

That is why they tell people if you want to solve your problems, get in touch with yourself. Reach down deep within yourself.

Look at the church!

There are steps in church-growth principles!

Is there some methodology by which you can make the church grow?

There are church growth principle conferences!

What are they talking about?

Bible says the Lord added daily to the church such as should be saved.

Who grows the church?

Do we believe that we can develop systems by which we can get the church to grow?

By human systems of cleverness?

The society has rich in increase with goods and have need of nothing and figured out a system for everything.

The society and the church hopelessly trapped in pragmatism.

We have developed a sophisticated methodology to deal with every issue in the church and in the family and in our personal lives. The weapons of our warfare have become fleshly.

We concentrate on

- ✓ human plans,
- ✓ human programs,
- ✓ human methods,
- ✓ human means,
- ✓ human systems

under the delusion that man can solve his spiritual problems provided he gets the right technique and the right system.

### **Charismatic movement:**

Charismatic movement there is a misrepresentation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

They denied that the Holy Spirit as the primary and priority personality in Christian sanctification. We have a movement that basically misrepresents the Holy Spirit.

What has the charismatic movement done?

This movement have associated the Holy Spirit strictly with that,

- which is supernatural,
- sort of sign,
- wonder,
- a sort of a magical member of the Trinity

who does these very external things that can be seen and felt and heard?

Thus, they have downplayed and diminished that

- ❖ internal,
- ❖ sanctifying,
- ❖ purging,
- ❖ purifying work that the Spirit of God does in the heart.

They have reduced the Holy Spirit to some sort of a genie in a bottle. Like Aladdin and the magic lamp!

They rub their little sort of religious bottle and out pops the Holy Spirit! Then they make a demand to do whatever they want the Holy Spirit to do. "Holy Spirit, I want this. Holy Spirit, I command You to do this," the genie who does the signs and the wonders. Pathetic!

Focusing only on the external signs and wonders denying its power to transform a sinner into saint.

Downside of this another disaster.

Biblical Christians, like us, have retreated and backed off the doctrines of the Holy Spirit.

We don't want to deal definitively with the ministry of the Spirit of God. In retreating from error about the Holy Spirit, we become fearful of speaking the truth for fear that someone might be offended.

The Holy Spirit disappeared out of traditional biblical evangelical churches.

You will find very little

- talk about Him,
- conversation,
- teaching, and
- preaching.

I rarely hear anyone anymore preach definitively and specifically on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We had done complete and comprehensive study about Holy Spirit.

## **Psychological sanctification**

This is the new approach to spiritual problems, and it flows out of humanism or pragmatism.

It defines that to deal with your problems you need to go to a counsellor. The counsellor will help you get in touch with your

deep-seated problems by helping you to reach inside and dig out the answers that are there.

The counsellor will help you to find the answer within yourself.

Let me also say this at this point that there are many wonderful counsellors who follow the Word of God and prayer and are used by the Holy Spirit. The gift of counselling is a wonderful, blessed operation by which the Holy Spirit ministers to believers. We are called to help one another, encourage one another, and fulfil all those responsibilities.

There are many who use the Word of God and who help people to come into the presence of God through prayer and biblical counsel and that is wonderful.

What concerns me is that there is a new definition of sanctification that is really outside the Bible and apart from the Holy Spirit. In the bible college some theological lessons have been replaced by psychology majors. Biblical emphasis has been replaced by psychological emphasis. There's little or no mention of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in many curriculums that are used today.

- Self-esteem,
- self-worth,
- a man-centred and
- Manmade theology.

These kinds of orientation have led people into a greater confidence in their own ability than they should have, in the Holy Spirit.

Look at the example of the life of David. We did a complete series of lessons on the life of King David.

When you read the Psalms, what do you see going through the Psalms?

We see a man wrestling with every imaginable problem in life! All possible human emotions we can find.

- Happy times,
- Sad times,
- Deep pain,
- Betrayal,
- Immoral,
- Adultery,
- Murder,
- Guilt,
- War times,
- Rejoicing times,
- Losing times,
- Running away from enemies,
- Running away from his own son trying to kill him.

David runs into every kind of problem a man could possibly can have.

What is the solution?

The Psalms penned by David shows you that solution.

To whom does David go for his problems?

Psalm after psalm David goes to God!

Always he goes to God.

He wrestles with his own heart and the nature of God.

He says,

"Holy and awesome is Your name.",

"Purge me and cleanse me."

He tells God what he feels, and he cries out to God and he even admits You have every right to punish me. But he wrestles with God and it's deep and it's painful.

Sometimes at the end of a psalm you see the window, and sometimes you don't, but he always goes to God because he understood the sovereignty of God and the depravity of man. He knew where he had to go for the solution.