

# Galatians 3 – By Faith

**Hook** – On 2 July 1505, a young law student named Martin Luther was nearly struck by lightning. He forsook law to become an Augustinian monk. In his duties, he wrote and lectured widely on Psalms, Hebrews, Romans, and Galatians. Over the rest of his life, as the Father of the Reformation, Luther came to believe and to teach the “Five Solas” as the core concepts in the Christian faith.

1. Sola scriptura ("by Scripture alone")
2. Sola fide ("by faith alone")
3. Sola gratia ("by grace alone")
4. Solus Christus or Solo Christo ("Christ alone" or "through Christ alone")
5. Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

Can you define these statements? Do you agree with them? Do you live them?

Perceive the Spirit	<h2>What does it mean to live By Faith?</h2>	Receive the Spirit
Believe the Spirit		

**Book**– Galatians 3

**Look**

Perceive the Spirit

The Key Message of Galatians

In the first and second chapters of Galatians, Paul recounts his conversion, his authority as an apostle, and the gospel that he received from God and preached to them. In the third chapter, he comes to the point of his letter. The Galatians were rejecting the grace of God in Christ, apprehended through faith, and turning back to a works-based salvation.

Paul’s argument is that God promised the whole world salvation through the seed of Abraham (Jesus Christ). God later selected Israel to be His people and gave them the Law to live by and through which to draw other nations to Himself. The Hebrews misunderstood the Law, thinking that adherence to it gave them salvation, even though Abraham himself was justified by faith (Genesis 15:6). This promise of salvation is fulfilled through the Spirit.

How do we perceive the Spirit?

We are “People of the Book”, and using the mind is a major part of being a Christian. Believers in Christ are not anti-intellectual – in truth we are hyper-intellectual. This is a good thing but leads to distortions in our faith. As post Enlightenment Protestants, we have emphasized the intellectual so much that we have minimized or even devalued the physical and emotional aspects of man.

We try to convince ourselves to believe, even when don’t really. How many of you have seen [Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street?](#)

## Illustration

Perceiving as intellectual (understanding)	Perceiving as emotional (feeling)	Perceiving as physical (doing)
<p>God's Promise of Salvation (Galatians 3)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Mountain top" experiences</li> <li>2. Art - <a href="#">Rembrandt</a></li> <li>3. Music - <a href="#">Handel</a></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, silence, solitude, etc)</li> <li>2. Physical experiences (nature, travel, unusual)</li> <li>3. Example - trip to Israel, <a href="#">Museum of the Bible</a>, <a href="#">Ark Encounter</a>, Seven Churches</li> </ol>

## Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

The first task in living Sola Fide (by faith) is to [spiritually perceive](#) the Spirit in its intellectual, emotional, and physical aspects. This is how our salvation comes from God to all of us through Jesus Christ.

1. How many people understand that the Spirit is present?
2. How many feel it?
3. How many do physical acts to help them perceive the Spirit?
4. Should we have an intellectual faith, a physical faith, and an emotional faith?
5. Are we actively pursuing the physical and emotional parts of our faith, or are we passively waiting for them to come?
  - a. What rituals are meaningful in your lives?
  - b. What do you do that makes you feel emotional?
  - c. How can those activities be modified to bring us closer to God?
  - d. Is it OK to "manufacture" experiences to provoke certain emotions?

## Receive the Spirit

Salvation is a gift from God, and a work of God. Jesus repeatedly promised that the Spirit would come to His disciples (John 12:22, Acts 1:8). In his inspired writings, Paul repeats those promises (Galatians 3:14-22). It is not a work of man, but a work of God (John 1:12-13).

## Illustration

## Discussion Questions and Answers/Application

Have you received the Spirit? What does it mean to receive the Spirit? Do you know for sure that you have received the Spirit? Do you feel like you have received the Spirit? Do you act like you have received the Spirit? Do other people, faithful Christians, confirm that they see the Spirit in you?

## Believe the Spirit

Three steps, each involving all of the individual (mental, emotional, physical, social)

1. Assent (John 3:16)
2. Perspective

- a. See the present and future through the past – “Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved Me?...I bless Thee for deigning me worthy of this day and this hour that I may be among Thy martyrs and drink the cup of my Lord Jesus Christ.” Bishop [Polycarp](#) of Smyrna as he was being taken to be burned at the stake (AD 155).
  - b. See the past and present through the future – Hebrews 12:2
3. Obedience (James 2:18)

**Illustration**

**Discussion Questions and Answers/Application**

People who call themselves Christians usually give assent to the Spirit. How do we do these three things to believe the Spirit? What practical things do we do in our lives?

**Took**

Perceive the Spirit	<h1>What does it mean to live By Faith?</h1>	Receive the Spirit
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**Verdict** – All any person has is Time, Energy, Skills, Focus, and access to Resources. How will you use them in light of the Truth you have just received?

**Additional Information**

- 1. Please visit the MD Harris Institute for more information on this topic.
- 2. Ask for the prayers and thoughts

**Closing prayer**