

faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

2.

Galatians 3:6-12 ESV - 6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. 10 For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." 11 Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." 12 But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them."

John 8:39-40 ESV - 39 They [the scribes and Pharisees] answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

3.

Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV - 24 Therefore the law was our tutor [to bring us] to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Galatians 3:13-14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"-- 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Luke 2:10-11 NLT - 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior--yes, the Messiah, the Lord--has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

"From Belief to Faith"

Galatians- week #5

INTRODUCTION

Those poor Galatian Gentile believers. The believers who were born Jewish were casting doubts on their legitimacy as Christians, because after all, Jesus was the Messiah promised to the Jews. But Paul was setting the record straight. Inheriting God's promise didn't depend on your bloodline, or your ability to follow the law, it depends on your faith. And what is faith? If I believe in God, isn't that enough? Paul answers that question of the relationship between believing in God and trusting Him with your life, in this section of his letter. Let's take a look.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Can you name one thing you use daily and simply have faith that it will work the way it is supposed to, even if you don't understand how it works?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

I Believe in God

1. Read James 2:18-24; Galatians 3:6-14;

Have you ever considered the difference between believing in something and putting your faith in it? James addressed this question head on in an open letter to the churches. Look at who James says believes in God. (James 2:19) If demons believe, then it must be possible to believe in God, but not have faith that saves you.

Paul pointed to the life of Abraham to clarify what saves us. How did he refer to Abraham in Galatians 3:9? What can you point to as evidence in Abraham's life as being "the man of faith"? What kind of evidence do we see in our own lives that demonstrates to the world our faith in God?

Children of Abraham

2. Read Gal 3:6-12; John 8:39-40

The problem facing the Gentile Christians in Galatia was knowing how they qualified to receive God's promises given to Abraham. The Jewish converts to Christianity thought following the law was their answer. But what did Paul explain as the qualification to be "sons of Abraham" (Gal 3:7-9)? In verses 11 and 12 how does he distinguish what faith can do for us from what the law can do for us?

Jesus made an interesting statement when he was confronted by the scribes and Pharisees. Although they were clearly Abraham's descendants, Jesus used something else to identify those who are "Abraham's children". What was that? Why is that good news for us?

Two Ways to Live

3. Read Galatians 3:24-25; Galatians 3:13-14; Luke 2:11

From the time God created man, he has given us choices to make – we have free will. We can choose to live by the law or to live by faith. God gave us the law to instruct us on what is right and what is wrong. What is it that removed our need for the law to tutor us? (Galatians 3:24-25)

Unfortunately, we have made choices which break God's law therefore we are all guilty, and we are under the curse of the law, which is death. If we try to remove our guilt by following the law, we will fail. What does Paul tell the Galatians not only removes the curse of the law, but imparts a blessing? (Galatians 3:13-14)

God had promised Abraham that through His seed, all of the nations of the world would be blessed. This was a declaration to Abraham that the Messiah would be a descendant of his. When the birth of the Messiah Jesus was made it was a joy to all people. (Luke 2:10-11) But we don't inherit that blessing by following the law. How does Paul tell us the Gentiles receive that promise? (Galatians 3:14)

WRAP-UP

It is possible to believe in God but not trust Him completely with your life. Believing in God is not the same as living a life of faith. Our faith should be evidenced in how we live, just as it was in the life of Abraham, the man of faith. But like the Galatians, we may fall back on following the law as a means of our justification. Trusting in our own abilities is living under the burden of the law, and that only results in the curse of the law. But Jesus took our sins to the cross and became a curse in our place so that we can receive Abraham's blessing, not because of our heritage or our ability to follow the law, but by our faith.

Memory Verse

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."
Galatians 3:8 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- Ask God to reveal to you those areas you need to trust in Him more and yourself less.

Bible Verses

1.

Galatians 3:9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

James 2:18-24 ESV - 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder! 20 Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and