

## Mini Study – Galatians 3

### Spiritual Amnesia

#### OBSERVE

READ Galatians 3:1-5 and:

- underline every reference to the *Spirit*.
- circle every reference to the phrase *hearing with faith*.

<sup>1</sup>O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? <sup>4</sup>Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? <sup>5</sup>Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

**WORKS OF THE LAW** – all the works commanded by God's Law, not just those relating to food, purity, and circumcision.

**PERFECTED BY THE FLESH** – seeking to be perfected by observing works of the law rather than by faith in Christ alone and the power of the Spirit – circumcision the primary thing the false teachers were trying to persuade the Gentile believers in Galatia to accept (Galatians 5:1-12).

#### DISCUSS

3:2 – How did the believers in Galatia receive the Spirit?

READ Romans 8:9:

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

What is true of those in whom the Spirit of God dwells?

3:1 – What was the message they heard and believed (with faith)?

READ Galatians 1:4 and Galatians 3:10,13-14:

<sup>4</sup>who [Christ] gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

<sup>10</sup>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.”

<sup>13</sup>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”—<sup>14</sup>so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith

Why was Christ crucified?

3:1 – How were the believers in Galatia being bewitched? What lie were they being taught to believe?

3:3 – What does Paul say is foolish for them to do?

3:4 – What is in vain if they do?

3:5 – What is the means through which the Spirit empowers us, as believers, to live for God?

What is the message we need then, even as believers, to keep hearing and believing?

## **REFLECT**

**Spiritual amnesia.** We all suffer from it. That tendency that afflicts us all as believers to forget the truth these verses remind us of. The truth that we never outgrow the Gospel. That just as we began our Christian life by faith in Christ and through the Spirit, so we are to live it. That as we live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us, resting in the truth of who we are and have in Him, the Spirit empowers us to live as new creations, and those in whom the law of God is fulfilled as we serve one another in love (Galatians 1:3-5; 2:19-21; 5:13-15).