

***We Must Move Forward in Faith
Galatians 4:8-11***

Introduction

1. This study of Galatians is about faith not works.
 - A. Those who have been justified by faith were falling away from faith.
 - 1) They had moved back to work.
 - B. This is difficult
 - 1) We are saved to work through Christ.
 - 2) We don't work to be saved.
 - C. If we are not careful work becomes our focus and we limit our faith.
1. In the verses ahead we will explore Paul's encouragement to walk in the faith that justified us.

Three things Paul is saying to the Galatian church in vs. 8-11

- ***Remember your former life***
- ***Look at your present life in Christ***
- ***Consider the cost of turning back to the former life.***

Remember your former life. Vs. 8

1. Man will honor or worship something.
 - A. Reminder – in your former life you were enslaved to false gods.
2. Humanity is seeking to satisfy the emptiness of our soul.
 - A. Seeking worldly pleasure to satisfy the heart's desire.

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (KJV (WS))

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? ¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Look at your present life in Christ. Vs. 9

1. Interesting wording here.
 - A. It is not like God didn't know us at all.
 - B. This phrasing reflects the personal relationship we have developed with God.
 - 1) Trusting Jesus by faith has developed that relationship.
2. The word "Known" is in the personal, intimate, relationship knowledge.
 - A. Not a greater understanding.
3. The transition from vs. 8 to 9.
 - A. You sought false gods and made them a god.
 - B. Now you know God, the creator of all things.
4. You are free in Christ.
 - A. Why go back to live in bondage.

Consider the cost of turning back to the former life. Vs. 10-11

Four principles to guide our daily walk with Christ individually and as a church.

Principle #1 – What actions and thoughts have kept you in spiritual bondage in the past.

1. Is there a pattern of negative thinking that keeps you from moving forward with God.
2. Has the doubts of your past kept you stuck in the past.
3. Has the enemy made you feel useless or worthless due to your past choices.
4. Are there things, desires, objects, practices that are keeping you distant from God.
5. Do you keep intentionally making choices that trap you.

How to overcome

1. Your self-effort will fail you.
 - A. Attempting to overcome these things in your own strength you will eventually fail.
2. You must start with God.
 - A. Let him know you can no longer do this on your own.
 - B. Surrender these doubts, fears, and practices to Him.
3. Develop a mindset with these things arise in your heart and mind you immediately turn to God.
 - A. When you turn to God give them over to God.
 - B. Name what it is and tell God you can't handle it.
 - C. Ask God to take control of you and whatever it is.
4. This will not be a one-time event.
 - A. It might be daily.

Principle #2 – Remember who your identity is now found in.

1. Your identity is not in the world it is in Christ.
2. Your past life is identified by the world.
 - A. Your new life in Christ is identified in Him.

Principle #3 – What are you putting into your life.

1. What goes into life is what comes out of life.
2. Develop spiritual habits that keeps your faith fresh and genuine.
 - A. If we are not careful, we can put more world into our life that smothers our faith.
3. That might be a weekly verse you keep in front of you.
 - A. It might be beginning a new Bible reading habit.
 - B. It might be journaling how God blessed you with small things during the day.

Principle #4 – Know that those spiritual investments are working great dividends.

1. It is a return on your investment.
2. Whatever you do or will do makes a difference.
3. Knowing this, this commitment to live out these principles will be challenged.
 - A. That's how we know our investment is working.
 - B. Satan doesn't want this in your life.
 - C. He will create opposition to distract you from investing future with God.
4. When the challenge comes buckle down in those areas you are investing in.