

Galatians – Lesson 14

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October 13, 2024

Last week we discussed the meaning of *...justified...* and this morning we will be examining the word *...faith...* in the phrase>>

<<*...through faith in Christ Jesus...*>>

Let's begin by examining the **origin, purpose** and **anatomy** of Biblical saving *...faith...*>>

The **Origin**>>

In **Eph. 2:8**, we read that there are two *sides* of our salvation>>

God side>>...*For by grace are have been saved...*>>

Our side>>...*through faith...*>>

Then the Holy Spirit explains that *...faith... is the **gift** of God, **9** NOT as a result of works...*>>

With this explanation, the Lord is emphasizing that>>

<<humanity does not possess saving and sanctifying *faith*>>

<<this kind of faith **must** come from God>>

Rom 10:17 *...faith **comes** from hearing, and hearing by the Word [the Gospel] of Christ...*
12:3 *God has given each of you a measure of faith...*>>

Therefore, God is the sole Origin of saving and sanctifying faith>>

The **purpose**>>

Eph. 2:8, *...so that **NO ONE** may boast...*>>

In **Eph. 2:4**, Paul explains *why* has God chose to give us this faith>>

*...God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us [**1 John 4:8,16**]...*>>

Saving and sanctifying faith is God's sovereign unilateral Grace gift to us in Christ>>

Therefore, this faith is the visible evidence of the presence and ministry of God's grace in us by the Holy Spirit for this purpose>>

<<*...to the praise of the glory of His **grace**, which He has freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved [Son]...*>>**Eph. 1:6**

<<so that He might ...[conform] us to the Image of His Son [Rom. 8:29]... in fulfillment of Gen. 1:26>>

This is why read in Heb. 11:6>>

...without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a Rewarder of those who seek Him...>>

The anatomy of faith>>

faith involves the **mind** and the response of the **will**>>

With the mind, a person understands which activates the will>>

<<faith is the response to trusting evidence>>

However, the Scriptures speak about natural and spiritual faith>>

Natural faith is the product of **natural birth** but spiritual faith is the product of **new birth**>>

In Rom. 8:5-8, the apostle Paul describes this distinction>>

The natural mind [the flesh]: Rom. 8:5a>>

...those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh...>>

The spiritual mind: Rom. 5b>>

...but those who are according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit.

Then in v.6-8, Paul elaborates>>

...because the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God [Heb.11:6]>>

In Eph. 4:18, Paul explains that Natural faith is the product of a natural mind that ...is **darkened** in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is **in** them...>>

As a result, those who walk according to their natural faith ...have no hope and or without God in the world [Eph. 2:12]...>>

Therefore, ...a natural man does not accept [believe by faith] the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised...>>1 Cor. 2:14

In summary, the natural mind is a mind that does not possess God's gift of faith>>Eph. 2:8

As a result, such a mind can only know that God exists>>

Rom. 1:19-20 ...that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

This means that the natural mind can know and learn a lot about God as He has revealed himself in nature and in the Scriptures>>

But the natural mind **cannot** know God personally, unless he has given the grace gift of faith by the Holy Spirit>>