

## Morning sermon series – Life in the Spirit

### **"Experiencing Freedom"** (Galatians 3v1-9, 5v1)

*How do we “get in” to the Christian life? And how do we “stay in”?* These questions can be dangerously misleading; it's hugely important to “continue as we began,” by hearing and responding with faith.

#### **1) Hearing Not Doing** (3v1-9)

The Galatians are tempted by legalism and so are tempted to undergo circumcision in order to sure up their standing with God. They're somehow forgetting that Christ died for them because the law of Moses itself *cannot* give life (2v21, 3v21). Paul takes them back to the beginning when they received the Spirit, not by attempting to do and adhere to an external law, but by hearing a promise with faith (3v2, 14). They, and we, must not try to continue or finish our life in Christ in any other way than by trusting faith (3v4-5).

Imagine a diligent son or daughter who seems externally to do many things to bring their father delight, but internally it's all about the inheritance. It's not a love relationship from their side at all. Imagine the father's grief!

Abraham's faith was all God required from him so that Abraham could be forever right with God and in the family, as a son not as a slave (3v6-9). The same, wonderfully, is true of us.

The dangerous lure of legalism is that we can put external commandments, laws and rules in the place of God himself. And, then, they become an idol. We believe the lie that they're easier and better to deal with than God himself. But when we hear and see the love of that God and the cross of Christ...

#### **2) Freedom!** (4v28-5v1)

*How do we become filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5v18)? How do we experience the power and strength of the Spirit in our daily prayer lives, in our relationships, and in our mission?* The answer is here in verses 5 and 6: by believing the promise of the gospel, by believing and receiving Christ himself. *Are we continuing to ask in faith as we hear the promise* (Luke 11v13)?

So, live in the love and freedom that Christ gives continually as we trust him: freedom from relating to God on the basis of external law; freedom from guilt and shame. You've been set free to love (5v6, 13-15).

## Evening sermon series – Knowing Christ

### **"How to Use Your Freedom in Christ"** (Galatians 5v13-16, 1 John 3v11-23)