



## The Life of the Spirit

### Galatians 3:1-5

Man, as distinct from plants and animals, has a body, soul, and spirit. Man's nature can be viewed as three concentric circles; the inner being the spirit of man, the next the soul, and the outer the body which interacts with the world. God the Holy Spirit resides in the control center of the born again believer who functions from the inside out. On the other hand the external law acts on the natural man from the outside in and can have no eternal result (*Gen.1:14, 20, 21, 24; Lev.26:4; Jer.8:7; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12*).

#### **I. PAST PROVISION OF THE SPIRIT**

- Many Galatian believers had allowed themselves to be deluded by legalistic teachers (*Galatians 3:1*).
- Paul reminds them that they had received the Holy Spirit not through legalistic means but through their faith in Christ crucified (*Galatians 3:2*).

#### **II. PRESENT PROGRESS BY THE SPIRIT**

- They were now foolishly seeking to progress in their Christian life by reliance on their own efforts, talents, and abilities (*Galatians 3:3*).

#### **III. PRESENT PROVISION OF THE SPIRIT**

- Much of their suffering was of no value because it arose from living by their old nature (*Galatians 3:4*).
- The mighty working of God in their midst can only arise through the power of the Holy Spirit; it does not arise from any natural source or from any set of rules and regulations (*Galatians 3:5*).

(over)

## Application

There is much confusion regarding the place of the Law of Moses and various rules and regulations in the life of the Christian. Be careful on your source of teaching on this.

Many Christians feel they are pleasing God and attaining favour with God through keeping of certain aspects of the moral Law. They are not! (*Rom.3:19,20; 4:15; 5:13, 20; 7:7*).

The person who finds favour with God is the born again believer who is experiencing death of self and the life of the Holy Spirit. This is God's process of gradually making you more and more like Christ.

### Steps in the Process

- ✓ Believe this fact to be true for you personally (*Rom.6:11*).
- ✓ Present your new life to God for His use (*Rom.6:12-23*).
- ✓ Accept that you have died to law and are alive in Christ (*Rom.7:1-6*).
- ✓ Recognize your complete inability to live for Christ (*Rom.7:15-24*).
- ✓ Refuse to reactivate the old self nature.
- ✓ Live by the power of the Holy Spirit and not the flesh (*Rom.8:1-11*).