**“By Faith”**

Going deeper in Galatians 3:1-9

**INTRODUCTION -** In the beginning of his letter, the apostle jumps right in responding to those who had been critical of his authority to preach the gospel. In chapter two, he shared the story of the confrontation he had with the Apostle Peter because even Peter had started behaving in a way that was contrary to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we move into chapter three, Paul continues to strongly admonish the church for allowing false teachers to lead them astray.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**1**You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. **2**I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? **3**Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort **4**Have you suffered so much for nothing—if it really was for nothing? **5** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? **6**Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” **7**Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8**The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9**So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What question does Paul ask in verse 2? Why is this issue so critical?

2. How does a person receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

3. What goal does the Spirit help a person achieve that human effort can’t attain?

4. What does the example of Abraham teach us about faith and righteousness?

5. Who are the true children of Abraham? Who is eligible to become one?

6. What additions to faith might a newcomer sense in our church? How can we help breakdown these barriers?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you anew to overflowing!

\*Give thanks to God that his grace is sufficient.

\*Give thanks that not only did Jesus die but he died for you!

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

After beginning with the Spirit are you now trying to attain your goal of righteousness by your own effort? Are you relying on the Holy Spirit or on your own power? This week spend some time with your Savior and allow His grace and the truth of His gospel to once again grip your heart and fill you with the assurance that His grace is more than enough.