



## Righteous by Faith

### RELATE

Which sentence or phrase from Galatians so far has stuck with you? What makes it so memorable?

Is faith something we think and have or something we are and do?

What are the real hallmarks of a person with a genuine, living, and active faith?

### READ & REFLECT

#### Galatians 3:1-14

How would you describe the tone Paul uses in writing these words to the Galatian Christians? Is he dumbfounded, angry, sarcastic, mocking, shocked, or something else? What is he trying to communicate to them?

How does Paul's appeal to their suffering (v. 4), their experience of the Holy Spirit (v. 2-5), and Christ's death (2:21) to expose the foolishness and futility of human effort?

How does Paul use quotes from the Old Testament to expose the problem of trying to be right with God by trusting in one's ability to keep his law (v. 6-11)? Why might this approach be effective with his audience? Would you use this approach with someone today? What would you say?

How did Jesus solve the problem of our inability to be righteous by keeping the law (v. 13)?

The Holy Spirit can seem weird and mysterious, but Paul clearly sees him as a great gift for believers. How do Christians receive God's Spirit (v. 2, 14)?

Paul distinguishes between a life that relies on the Holy Spirit and one that depends largely on human effort. Practically speaking, what's the difference? How can we tell when we have stopped living by faith and started relying on our own resources (v. 3)?

What are some specific ways we inhibit the Spirit's work in our lives? What are some specific ways we can open ourselves to God's Spirit?

### RESPOND

**Act** When you wake up tomorrow morning, ask the Holy Spirit to fill every area of your life; welcome him into every thought, situation, and relationship. Pay attention to what God does, and share your observations and experiences with Christian friends.

**Reflect** He redeemed us in order that the blessing promised to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Galatians 3:14