

## **SPIRITUALITY vs. CARNALITY**

We are currently studying a series entitled, **Teleiology** (A study of spiritual growth maturity).

We are studying twelve meat doctrines of the church age that are essential for spiritual growth maturity. (Heb.5:14) “But solid food (he stereos trophe) is (eimi/ p.a.ind.3ps) for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good from evil.”

We learned from our first study on **Dispensations (parts 1)** that human history can be viewed through four periods of time within which God interacts uniquely with both believer and unbeliever, specifically during the Gentile Age and the Jewish Age..

Our third study, in our series of twelve meat doctrines will cover the doctrine of Spirituality vs. Carnality

The primary opposition to these 12 doctrines comes from legalism. Paul warned Galatian believers not to become bewitched (baskaino / a.a.ind. 3ps) by legalistic doctrines. He warned that the result of bewitching would be foolishness (anoetos / vpln) [no perception of spiritual truth]. Legalism leads to a spiritual dumbing down of the believer (Gal.3:1-2; 3:3-5).

Two areas of legalistic dumbing down occurring within the churches of south Galatia were salvation by works of Law (Gal.1-2) and spirituality by works of Law (Gal.3-6) – “I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes from the Law; then Christ died needlessly.” (Gal.2:21)

From Gal.3:1 through Gal.6:18 Paul refers to the Holy Spirit 16 times (NIV Bible footnote). This takes us to both our lesson text and to our third teleiological doctrine – **Spirituality vs. Carnality**.

<b>We will study six aspects of the doctrine of Spirituality vs. Carnality.</b>
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**1. Paul used a Greek teaching / debating technique of rhetorical questions to address the legalistic doctrinal attack upon spirituality. Spirituality is 100% the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

The debater’s rhetorical question is not interested in an answer. It is intended to get the listener to consider the implications of the question.

- Notice that it was used in every verse of our lesson text (Gal.3:1, 2, 3, 3, 4, and 5).
- Notice that three verses deal with the doctrinal attack upon spirituality (3:2, 3, 5).
- Write what was attacking grace spirituality?
  - Gal.3:2 \_\_\_\_\_,
  - Gal.3:3 \_\_\_\_\_,
  - Gal.3:5 \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Let’s consider Paul’s question pertaining to spirituality in Gal.3:2.**

“This is the only thing I want (thelo / p.a.ind.1ps) to find out (manthano / a.a.infin) [learn] from you: did you receive (lambano / a.a.ind.2pl) the Spirit (to pneuma) by works (ex +abl.pl.n ergon) [source of doctrine of legalism] of Law (nomos / gsm) or by hearing (ek+abl.sf) [source of grace doctrine] (Rom.10:17) of faith (pistis / gsf)?” (NAS)

**How does the Church Age Believer (CAB) receive the indwelling Holy Spirit?** If you say that you must do something (works of the Law / flesh), your answer is foolish because you have been seduced or bewitched by satanic lies (John 8:44; Matt.13:19; 2 Cor.11:3).

(John 7:38-39) “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of **the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for **the Spirit** was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (Gal.3:2)

**3. Now let’s consider Paul’s second question pertaining to spirituality in Gal.3:3 – “Are you so foolish? Having begun by Spirit, are you now being perfected by flesh?”**

**First:** “**Having begun** (enarchomai / a.m.ptc nplm) **by** (work) [no defenent article (the) in the text] **Spirit**,” refers to the 8 works of the Holy Spirit at salvation (**50 Things of Salvation**).

- One example of having begun by (work) Spirit is regeneration by the Spirit (John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Pet.1:3, 23).
- Another example is indwelling of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.3:16; 6:19-20; 2 Cor.6:16; Eph.2:22; John 14:16).

**Second:** the reason a believer can become bewitched and become foolish regarding spirituality is “are you **now being perfected** (epiteleo / p.p.ind.2pl) [to bring through to an end / spiritual] by (work) flesh (sarx) [OSN]?”

They were being persecuted by legalism regarding the doctrine of grace salvation and spirituality (Gal.3:4); (1 Tim.1:18-20) [Hymenaeus and Alexander] “Be on guard against him (Alexander) yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teaching.” (2 Tim.4:14-15).

**4. The Church Age Believer (CAB) is not spiritual by doing religious things or being moral. These are futile works of the flesh trying to perfect the OSN.**

Just because they are not listed as sins (transgression of law) like in Gal.5:19-21, they are still carnal because they are produced by the flesh or OSN (Gal.5:13-26)

(Gal.5:13) “Only do not turn your **freedom** into an opportunity for the flesh.”

(Gal.5:16-17) “But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit sets its desires against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

The indwelling Spirit is the only source of spirituality in the CWL (1 Cor.2:14-3:3; Rom.8:9). The CAB is only spiritual by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**5. Let look at Paul’s final rhetorical question:**

(Gal.3:5) “**Does He (Lord) then**, [who provides (ho epichoregeo / p.a.ptc.nsm) [person who fully financed a Greek drama] you (su / dplm) [advantage] with the Spirit and who works (energeo / p.a.ptc.nsm) [grace] miracles among you,] **do it by works of Law, or by hearing of faith?**”

- Be careful how you answer it. According to Paul, your answer could reveal your foolishness and show that you have been bewitched by lies of cosmos diabolicus (John 8:44).

Notice the parenthesis in Gal.3:5 [ ]. Read it without the parenthesis and with it. The parenthesis reinforces what was said in Gal.3:3-4 (spirituality) and reconnects us with Gal.3:1-2 (salvation).