

By the hearing of faith. I would like you to take that literally. By the hearing of faith. Not by believing what you heard, but by the hearing of faith. It's what you heard when faith spoke. When faith spoke, and you heard, faith is speaking, and you heard. Can you hold on to that? Can you kind of keep that? That's a little different, isn't it? When faith spoke. Alright. Are you so foolish? Having begun in spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain...you four churches, if in fact it was in vain? Does the Lord then, who provided you with His Spirit and worked miracles among you, do it by law or by faith, speaking to you? Are you with me?

Now we meet brother Abraham, whom we'll meet several times throughout this passage. Even so, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are *out of faith*. Verse seven. Those who are *out of faith* are sons of Abraham. I'm going to change that and give it the impact it should have. This is not the Greek, but it's the impact of the Greek. Therefore, be sure that it is those *who are born out of the womb of faith* who are the sons of Abraham.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would also justify you, heathen Gentiles, there in Galatia, He preached the gospel back there to Abraham for your sake, there in Galatia, hundreds of years ago. Because in the moment He spoke to Abraham, He also said, "By you shall all the Gentiles be blessed." I trust most of you know that the word gentile and the word nation are the same, and it means the heathen nations. In the Jews' eyes, we were heathens. So then those who are out of the womb of faith are blessed with Abraham, or in Abraham, or if you please, Abraham, the believer or the believing Abraham.

So then, those who are out of the womb of faith are blessed with, or by, the believing Abraham. And if we could really put this in Greek, it would read like this. So then those who are out of the womb of faith are blessed with the "faithing" Abraham. Alright, here we go. For as many as are of the works of law are under a curse. For it is written, cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law and to perform them. Now that no one is justified by law before God is evident, for it is by faith that the righteous have life. It is by faith that the righteous have life. I say that with me, would you? It is by faith that the righteous have life.

Verse 12. However, the law is not out of or from faith. It does not come from the womb of faith. On the contrary, he who practices the law shall live by all the precepts of the law. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, and the law is a curse, and He became a curse for us. For it is written, cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree, in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to you there in Pisidia, you the nations, the gentile heathen, so that you might receive the promise of the spirit through faith. Now, brothers, I speak to you in terms of human relationships: the two men may have a compact, a contract, and when it is legally ratified, it cannot be set aside, nor can conditions be added to it. But what happened between God and Abraham was not a contract. It was a promise—a promise to speak to Abraham and to his seed. I'm going to

reread that. A promise that was spoken to Abraham and to Jesus Christ. How do you like that? Isn't that nice?

A promise spoken to Abraham and to Jesus Christ. He did not say and to seeds as referring to many seeds, but rather to one, blessed to you is this promise given to you, Abraham, and to one seed that is, who? Say it; alright, so that's where I have read to Abraham and to Christ what I'm saying is this law, the law which came 430 years later after Abraham, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God. You cannot nullify this promise. The law cannot nullify this promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise. But God granted the inheritance to Abraham by means of a...say it...promise. Why then the law? Oh man. Why then the law? It was added because of transgression, having been ordained by angels, not by God, but by angels. It was blessed, contracted, sealed by angels by the agency of a mediator until Christ should come to those to whom the promise was made. And to whom was the promise made? To the Phrygians. Amen brother. To Abraham and to the Gentiles who would be blessed, and you are the Gentiles, and the promise came to Christ, through Christ, to those to whom the promise would fall upon after Christ. And you are those people.

Now, a mediator is not for one party. It's for two people, but when God makes the promise, God doesn't have two parties. There's only one. For God is one. Has the law been contrary to the promise of God? May it never be. For if a law has been given that was able to impart life; if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based upon law. Now, what can you infer from that verse? You can't get life out of the law. I'd like for you to say that. I'd like to hear your mouth say it. You can't get life out of the law. Say it again. It'll do your heart good. You can't get life out of the law, but the scripture has shut up all men under sin that the promise which comes by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. We're all shut up in prison by sin. There isn't but one door out, brothers: it's by faith in the promise given to Jesus Christ to those who "faith", to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up by the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore, the law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ that we may be justified by faith. Does anybody have the concordant literal here with us? That we wouldn't be that lucky, would we? Does any translation use a word other than "tutor" here? School master. Anything else? What have you got?

**Audience:** The New American Standard Bible, the Open Bible, expansion edition.

Expansion edition. Alright, that is the correct translation. It is not a teacher. It is not a tutor. It is not a school master. It is, in fact, a child conductor. You could almost call him a bus driver. Therefore, the law has become our child conductor, our bus driver, to lead us to Christ that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under the child conductor. We are no longer under the law, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were plunged into Christ, have clothed yourself with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither slave nor free. There is neither male nor female. For you are all... oh, shoot... let's read this whole verse. This is going to be good. Just read it with me, would you? I'm

in the New American. Say it after me. There is neither Jew nor Greek. There is neither slave nor free man. There is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Now we're going to do that again. Amen. I'm neither a Jew nor a Greek. I'm not a slave, nor am I free. I'm not a male, and I'm not a female. I'm one with you in Christ.

Do you get the impact that, inside of Him, what we are is not free or a slave or male? We're one. That's almost like you're introduced to a different species. What species is that? The one species. I'm going to repeat that. Verse 28 almost introduces us to a new species. For I am not a Jew, and I am not a Greek. I'm not a slave, and I'm not free. I'm not a man. I'm not a woman. I am one with you in Christ Jesus. The "one" species comes back, really, to the concept of Christ being a seed and, in some way, to the divine matters of God. The seed never breaks down, even though many are added after Christ, for those who believe, the one is never broken.

Okay, let's start. I'm going to take this in chunks, and the first chunk that I'm going to take here is a question. The second one I'm going to take is Abraham, and the third is the law. The fourth one I will take will be the closing passage. I want to ask you a question. You were running so well. What got you started running so well? You were down there in Galatia, and you had your problems, and you, even you heathen, had your moral code. You had the law that you had chosen. Each one of us picks a law. Even the Jews didn't just have a law that they...a single solitary law. Every time you ask a Jew, each one of them has quarantined the law to a certain degree. You know, a Pharisee was living under all of it. Somebody else living under a little less than a Pharisee. Christians are the same way. Some don't smoke, some don't chew, some don't run around with those who do. Some don't go to movies, some don't dance. Some don't do this, some don't do that, some wear funny clothes, and some do something else. Each of us got a different law we put ourselves under. So were the Jews, and you heathen, every one of you, adopted some sort of law for yourself.

Now then, recently, Blastinius came and visited with you, and he gave you a whole new law to live under. Really introduced you to lots of things you never heard of, like circumcision. Just how exciting was it before Paul showed up in your town? How glorious was it for you living under the law that you had adopted for yourself? You tell me. You weren't really getting a whole lot out of that. Then Paul came along, and he presented to you: Jesus Christ. You remember that? Was that wonderful? You were having a hard time, and he came with grace, with the message of grace. Something that came without any working, no code, no morals, nothing. Did you like that? Did joy come from there? Oh, wonderful. Joy came from there. We have a brother down here who said joy came from there. The Spirit came and hooked onto the outer lobe of his ear. Right. No. What happened? The Spirit came...the Lord's own Spirit came and lived inside of him. It was wonderful. Do we have anybody else to say that it happened to them? You remember that? Would you say something? Say amen. That's a good word.

You remember? Do you remember? You can bet your life I remember. What is the testimony of so many Christians that it comes up as a great chorus? The first two years I was saved were just wonderful. I don't know what happened after that. Something happened after that. When I was a

young minister, I noticed something parallel to this. I'm off the subject now. I would go around preaching and then as I became an evangelist, I'd be sitting at people's home and we'd be in this church building holding a meeting, but I'd be eating with Mr. and Mrs. Smith and they'd say, "You know, our church started here four years ago and it was meeting in John Brown's living room and he said it was so wonderful." And then we built a church building, and we lost something. He said, 'I don't know what it was, what it was we lost. I guess that's just the penalty you pay for getting larger. I began hearing that again and again and again. I began to wonder whether they should ever have gotten out of that living room, because it killed something they had. You know what it killed? It killed the community. Whoever invented the pew and the church building probably did more to wreck the Christian faith than anything since Blastinius.

The same thing happened to most of us as young Christians. I wish you could have come to this conference when you were about two years old in Christ, because I think I know what happened to you. You shifted your foundation. You shifted it from your simplicity in Christ, trying to please Christ, or a preacher, or a standard, or, if you please, you adopted a new standard. You added to Christ, and anytime you add to Christ, you dethrone the Lord, and you put human instrumentality upon the throne. Your God, your Lord, is really seeking to say something to you. It is all of grace. It is all of Him. All of Him.

Now, Galatians, you were running well. I have this question to ask you. Did you get the spirit within you, a spirit that has borne witness to you that brought you joy and peace in Christ...did you get that from God, or did you get that from law? Did the law inseminate into you the Spirit of the living God who came into you and became one with you? Yes or no? No, the law did not do that. Then why did you switch railroad tracks? Why, in running on the spirit and in the spirit and from the spirit and by the spirit, did you switch to law? Why did you do that? Can you explain yourself? Defend yourself. More light. You got more light. Yes. Yes, you got too much light. Now, I want to ask you the simplest question in the world. I'm prepared to be challenged on this, but I'm prepared to hold my ground, too.

Have you ever met a happy legalist? Oh, you know, I think maybe you have. He's happy at moments. At times, he's happy. But he was not happy for very long. I know these brothers; they are never happy for very long. One of two things happens. They either get concerned about their own life or your life. Is that not true? Will you not witness that? I want to tell you I've never met a happy legalist. I'm going to show you a legalist. You have to become more submissive than you are. For those of you who didn't hear that, I just told one of them down here that they had to become more submissive. She had to become more submissive. This is the spirit of a legalist. He isn't ever content. Tomorrow it will be something else. He's frustrated. I've been referring to Brad here, but I knew Brad back when I checked him out last night. Brad was one of these kinds of people. Miserable with himself and miserable with everybody else around him. Always trying to adjust something. And watch him get frustrated. It was just really interesting, and I also watched Brad start to get free of that, and he was just as I said the other day: euphoric. So today, last night, or yesterday, I asked J, "Is he better? Has he gotten better?" And she said...oh, well, J, you tell them.

You go ahead. Tell these folks what you said to me. Don't paint it too good. I know Brad, but what do you say? Much better. You said more than that yesterday. What did he do to you today? This morning, J, he puts you under the law. He said, she said, he's not a legalist at all. But, you know, I'm going to tell you something. Brad is a bit of a legalist, but it's just a bit. Somebody had to tamper with Brad to make him as bad as he was. Is that not true, Brad? Somebody had to tamper with you. A Southern Baptist mama. Is that right? That's where it started. I bet somebody else got to you, too, though, didn't.

**Audience:** Listen. You know what you were saying a minute ago? I got converted by myself, you know, you know, no little one, two threes or anything. And so that lasted a couple of weeks, and then I started going to a Bible study. I went for two weeks.

Bless your heart. That's too bad. I'm sorry you went to that Bible study, brother. A Bible study will really put you under the pile. A couple of years ago, my wife and I learned something we did not know. Probably many of you know this, but for those of you who do not, sociologists have discovered four basic personalities, and they are true in America, China, South Africa, among the Eskimos, and anywhere. I'm going to try to describe them to you really quickly. Now then, nobody is purely any one of those. Most of us have a blend of two of them. Therefore, there are 16 basic personalities. The two most extreme are the domineering type person and the very clinical, careful type person who does bookkeeping, you know, and puts everything in order. This kind of person loves to dominate. They should never marry one another. Then there is the emotionally outgoing person who loves to get excited about things and everything wonderful. Love sunsets, artistic work, couldn't make up their bed if their life depended on it, and their home is an absolute shambles. Then there's another kind of person. God love them. This is man's image of the Christian, which is a shame because the other three of us have a right to be a Christian too. This is a very satisfied person. They're not temperamental, and it's very easy to get along with them; they facilitate others, help them, and make a great secretary if they happen to be a woman. Just...that's fine, honey. If you're a wife, or if the husband, you know, is just satisfied where you live, like to live in the same town, same house, but you really like security and stability, four kinds of people.

Please look at this first one. This guy is, by nature, domineering and dictatorial, a leader, not very organized, but very willing to get the rest of the world organized. Now, this person down here is organized. This person who's outgoing, this person's very satisfied, very afraid of this one, but God put this one on the earth to keep this one from absolutely taking over the planet. This one over here, the bookkeeper, the precise, the scientific one, comes over to the domineering person and says, "Why do you do that? That's the worst thing you can ask him. Don't ask me to explain anything. You know, go do what I tell you to do. I think you're wrong. Give me a good reason for that. Let me show you why it won't work. Hates one another. This is the cobra, and this is the mongoose, and that cobra is dangerous. Oh, that cobra is dangerous. I want you to know that cobras are so dangerous. Mongoose is about half blind, can't see, can't smell. Kills that cobra every time. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like for you to meet a mongoose right here. **Audience:** Yeah, I know. My calling is to keep the cobra from taking over the world.

You're doing a great job, sweetheart. For your information, I am these two. I am a very outgoing, personable person. Helpful, well met, never met a stranger in my life, really like everybody, like to be involved in things. I got a little of this in me, but God let me marry this. Isn't that wonderful? All four of these people need their basic nature broken, not changed - broken. There are times when this very secure person needs to be very bold and go do something very not secure. Let me see. That's this one. Yeah, this one right here ought to leave the house messy one day and stop worrying about whether the checks are balanced. This outgoing human being really needs to slow down sometimes, stop talking so much, and get into the real world. It's really hard, isn't it, Carol? But to you, my friend Brad, to you, this person can be extremely legalistic. These two people right here can be so legalistic. These two people couldn't care less about legalism, but they will listen, can be duped into it, and will follow. But these two people are legalistic. This one right here is not the least bit legalistic toward himself. He is legalistic toward you. He wants you to clean up your room, get your checks in order, and make sure you make your product perfect. This guy right here, he's legalistic toward himself and toward everybody else, and he is very overwhelming. This brother is a natural leader, and these kinds of people run around here on this earth, folks, and they're waiting to find you. They're going to lead you, and they're going to straighten you out, but they remain frustrated to the day they die. They can never make everything as good as they want it to be. They have very little sense of humor. They are usually heads of corporations. You can't insult him, or I mean you can go up and tell him he's a heathen and tell him he's the devil, so forth; he won't even watch you. He'll keep on walking. I'm talking about the Simon-pure variety. He keeps on chugging along. A very aggressive type of human being. Now that's all right. I know I'm drawing a very ugly picture here, but some of God's finest men are these men broken. These men, broken...but unbroken and saved, this is one of the most dangerous critters who ever lived. And I want to tell you something else: some of you are following such a man right now.

I was told by someone who knows a lot about this that Billy Graham is a this and a this, the same thing I am. You know, I really thank God that my brother is a broken man. I don't have much good to say about the religious system, but from the day I first heard of him until this day, Billy Graham has had my undying respect. I got nothing lodged against that man. He has been a highly ethical human being in a situation that's very difficult to be ethical in. And thank God the brother is broken because otherwise he is dangerous, and all you have to do is see other men like him who were not broken. Now, I'd like for you, every one of you, to step back from these kinds of people, unbroken men. They will drive you to the ends of this earth with their domineering and domination of your life. I met them. Look in their eyes. This is an unhappy human being. He is intent. Sometimes he is swaying vast audiences. Meet him afterward. Why didn't he walk out here in the aisle? No, he is...whichever way he's going, that's the way he's going. Do you know who I'm talking about? Have you ever met this man? Maybe you're married to him. You think you just did? Sometimes this other one can be the same way. Very intent. One of the greatest needs in this world is for these two people to develop a sense of humor, but more than that, they need to meet the cross of Jesus Christ head-on. Well, so do you two people, all of us do. But take that person with that basic disposition. I was speaking here, Brother Brad. Brad, I hope you don't feel picked on. Is that

alright? I know Brad well enough to feel safe here. Start feeding him concepts, ethical codes, standards, moral issues, good and bad, and you can create a monster. A monster.

Now, let me tell you something. Those of us who are in the ministry, those of us who speak, we have a particular, definite moral streak about us. We are more moralistic than most people. We don't like sin. We don't like what's on television. We don't like what's being printed. We don't like what's being said. We don't like what's being done. It's just one of the qualifications of being in the ministry. And being a minister, you care about moral issues. That thing can get out of control and become absolutely obsessive when, actually, it should be swinging in the other direction toward grace. Now, I would to God that you could get some perception and step back and ask yourself where you are. Is it possible? I'm talking to you as a layman now. Is it possible that you have found yourself under a legalist who has put you under the law and taken away from you the grace and freedom of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I wouldn't try talking to him if I were you. He will convince you he is correct every time. "But doesn't the Bible say," and "Isn't it true?" And if you don't, this will lead to...and if you do, this will lead to...No, I'm just...you can make the Bible teach anything. It doesn't matter what it is. You can have it taught. There is nothing this world has ever known, said, or believed that you cannot get the Bible to teach that. But watch his life. Just look at him. Observe him. Observe what's happening around you. Are you in the middle of freedom? Are you in the middle of something where someone comes down from the top, the fountain head, someone is obsessed with adjusting your life, hair dos, clothing, way of talking, dress, moral standards, it's leading, submission, authority. These guys love to preach on authority because they are authoritarian by nature. By the way, always ask them this. Are you an oldest child, a youngest child, or maybe an only child? You watch this oldest-and-youngest-child business. That's the worst thing that can happen to you, especially being the oldest child. Say amen, Brenda. Yeah, because Brenda's a second child and I know her sister really well.

Kids in the middle, most of them, and there are exceptions...all this has exceptions...but the oldest child, you remember how you raised that little kid, don't you? You remember you worried about him from the first day. Is he alright? Is he okay? The little baby looking up at you never saw a smile. All he saw was intensity. Is that baby alright? He's six months old; he hasn't walked yet! You know, the second kid comes along. The kid's hungry. You feed him; I'm busy, and you and you play with him, enjoy him. The oldest child is just always concerned. How many of you are the oldest child? Yeah. Do you recognize this at all? Now, there are exceptions to all of this, but brothers and sisters, some of us are just plain flat more vulnerable to the law than others, to its power in us and coming out of us, and others of us are very susceptible to following that kind of a nut. I want to say this to you, and of course, you would expect this from me. I would stay just as far from authoritarianism as I could. Stay away from people who adjust your life. I should wait until chapter 4 to say this, but let me tell you about Blastinius. Blastinius really feels that his experience with Christ, his particular experience with Christ, and his particular understanding of God and spiritual things should be duplicated. Duplicated.

Paul believes that everyone ought to have an experience with Christ: a living, vital experience. He has one. He believes everyone else should have one, but he's not putting it in a mold. Can you see the difference? I know men, I have watched men, who are absolutely obsessed, and women too, with duplicating in the lives of everyone else that which God has done in their own life. That's why, in chapters four and five, you will find Paul saying they are trying to cut you off from themselves. Find a movement that is legalistic, and you will find everybody having to go somewhere to find out what they believe, what they can do, and what they cannot do. You were set free. It is for freedom. You were set free. When I...Gene...won't that cause chaos in the church? You bet your life that it will cause chaos in the church. And you know something, that's exactly what elders need. How do you think your elders are ever going to get broken unless you have a church full of free people? I'd rather see the elders broken than the people broken. Because otherwise, the elders are going to break God's people, and I don't mean brokenness.

Dear child of the living God, consider what is being said. Nobody has any business tampering with your head or your life. Nobody. It was for freedom you were set free. Oh, Memphis, I can't wait till the sisters start telling you that in Christ there is neither male nor female. There is nothing on earth a man is more afraid of than a woman. I read one of the most beautiful statements the other day: men really need, they have a real need, for the woman to be submissive to a man. It's a biological need, whereas a woman does not particularly need...women in general, exceptions and all this...do not particularly need to dominate, and she's perfectly willing to meet the man's need and let him go ahead and be in control. But so many men can't handle the ability to totally control another human being, and they make life hell on this earth. They forgot the other part of that scripture that says, "Love your wife."

I wish every brother in this room would read a book... oh boy, I don't even know the name of it. There are two of them that are very similar. Oh, the name of it is "If Only He Knew." Have you ever read that book? It's not what every man should know about his wife, but it is "If Only He Knew." Isn't that correct? Is that the name of that? I wish every brother would read that book, because every brother in this room's got a little bit of a mean streak in him when it comes to his wife. Brother, you ought not to concentrate on your wife being under you. What you need to concentrate on is loving her. Someone told me about the church they were in, it was so obviously legalistic, so moralistic, so this-istic, and that-istic. She said, "What should I do?" And I shouldn't have said what I said. I said, "Oh, sister, go home and do the one thing that that church needs so desperately, really needs reality. Go home and rebel." Let them tell you that rebellion is worse than witchcraft, and go ahead and rebel. Brothers and sisters, there's nothing in the book of Galatians about rebellion. It's about law. It's about men and women put under conduct that is a concept of another human being. It is for freedom that you have been set free.

Now the question before the house is, did law and rules fill you with the Holy Spirit? Have you ever been really, really happy? Gloriously happy, delightfully happy, putting one of those things on your head because somebody told you that you had to have a head covering. Did you come home spiritually filled about that? When you did not go to the post office on Sunday afternoon in

fear that you might break the laws of the Sabbath, did that fill you with praise and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ? That day when you took all your bright ties out and threw them in the trash can, did that bring you exuberant joy? Remember all the laws you've obeyed and been under. Did it set you free to Christ and fill you with his spirit? No? Then why, having begun in the spirit, are you returning to law and ethical codes and human standards? Return to the spirit from which you found your Lord, your joy, your peace. Please say amen.

Well, you see, Blastinius and that's point one. Blastinius came and said, "You are not the sons of Abraham, nor are you of his seed. Now you have believed in Christ, but you must also be circumcised and obey the law. And Paul of Tarsus brings out his big guns, and they are big, and they are wonderful. This is so clear in the Old Testament. I mean, Paul is on such solid ground here, and he tells the story of Abraham. I'd like to tell you the story of Abraham. May I tell you the story of Abraham? This is a large part of this chapter.

I am approximately 110 years old. My wife is 99. When I was young, God told me I would have a son. At that time, my wife could not conceive. I could, but she could not. Her body was dead. Mine was not. God promised me a son, said that my seed, which was alive in me, a seed that was in me, would be as the stars of the heavens and would bless even the gentile heathen. I waited, and I waited, and I waited, and I waited until I also...my body died, and there was no seed. My wife longed; never in one day in her life could she conceive. Never. Her body had always been dead. And now I am dead. Nothing. Not for over a generation. Nothing. I'm dead, and she is dead. One day, God came back to me, having given me that promise, and He said, "Abraham, your 99-year-old wife is going to have a baby. Abraham, you are going to have a son, and your descendants will be as the stars in heaven, and your seed will bless the universe, bless the earth.

Now, saints, this is 430 years before anybody ever heard of Moses. This man, named Abraham, is sitting here listening to God speak while he's eating a pork sandwich. Do you hear me? Yelling at some of his servants, "Get those pigs out of the trough over there and put them back in the pen." He's uncircumcised. He's over a hundred years old, and he is dead, and his wife has always been dead, and he's been dead for way over a generation. God says to him, "You're going to bear a child. Your descendants will be as the stars, and your seed will bless the Gentiles." That's a promise. Do you believe that Abraham? Come outside. Abraham walks outside. Look up in the sky. Look at the heavens. Look at the heavens. He steps out of his tent, and he sees the stars—beautiful, beautiful night. Abraham, your descendants will be more than that. Now, do you believe Me? And Abraham stands there, and he looks at his dead body, and he saith, "God, my Father, God in heaven, I believe that You can resurrect the dead. I believe that You have the power of resurrection and that You can raise the dead, and that uncircumcised gentile pork-eating heathen believed that God could raise the dead, and it was counted to him that he was righteous, because he believed in the resurrection. Praise the Lord.

Now, I mean, when that happened, God said, "Abraham is as righteous as I, God, am righteous." In the eyes of the living God, maybe to no one else, but in the eyes of the living God, God looked

down upon that man who had faith in God's ability to raise the dead, to bring forth resurrection, to resurrect a dead seed. He looked at him and put His very holiness and His very righteousness on Abraham. I want you to know that's what God saw, and that's all that's important. God reckoned him as righteous as God. Now was he circumcised or uncircumcised? Uncircumcised. Was he obeying a law? He had no law. The only thing that happened in this world was that he had faith in God. He believed what God had told him. And you know what God did? He raised the dead. The same thing that saved Abraham saves you.

Let me ask you something. Was Abraham outwardly changed by this? I'll even ask you another question. Was he inwardly changed by this? Frankly, I don't know. I don't know that much about Old Testament believers. Maybe you do. I have never understood that, but I will tell you what God saw. He saw that man changed. He was changed...from the viewpoint of God. Now, brothers and sisters, that man was made in the right relationship with God, not by good works, but by his faith in God, which God had put in him. And now Abraham's body is resurrected from the dead. And Sarah's body is resurrected from the dead. And Sarah gets pregnant at the age of 100 and bears one child because God promised it, not because Sarah had done anything nice. She had not gained God's favor, and neither had Abraham. A sister said to me last night, "You know, Gene, I've always felt that if I could get to know the Lord better, he would love me more." Listen to those words. I've always felt that if I could get to know the Lord better, He would love me more. My dear child of God, He can't love you more than He did when He loved you at the foundation of the ages. You got it all. You can't get any more merit or any more love out of your God. Praise His name.

Abraham had a child, one child. That child had a child, and that child had 12 kids; he was justified in the face of God, while he was as heathen as you, Galatians. He gained his righteousness without doing one good thing in this world. He gained his righteousness by faith alone, and at that moment, God said, "I will give you the promise. I give you this promise, and I will give you, and your seed will inherit that promise, and it was one seed. Four hundred years later, those people had problems. God gave them a law. God gave them a moral standard, that the moral standard might conduct them, and we'll get to that in a minute. Might conduct them somewhere. But they were shut up under the law until that seed arrived, and when the seed arrived, the tutor, the child conductor, was put out of business. The child is now brought to the real Father, to the real Father, and gains the inheritance. Praise the Lord.

Well, I want to talk to you about the promise for a moment. What's the promise, please? The promise...Christ is the promise. That is correct. Now then, be careful here. What is the inheritance of those who are in the lineage of the seed? Those who come after the seed. The seed arrived, and then there were those who came after him. That's you. That's the fullness of time. That's you. What's the inheritance? Well, we'll have to have another conference for sure. You don't know what you inherit. Everything, everything, everything that is His. You get that. That's what you get. Everything that is His. No, that's not right. That is not perfectly correct. Can you think of something else, or something less, or something else, or something else, or something else, or something any, or can you think of something? Are there any qualifications for this? It is not that we get less than

everything. We get *more* than everything. For we get everything *and we get Him*. All that He is. We get God in Christ. We get Christ, and we get all that He has and all that is His. You get everything, and you get all of God. That's what your inheritance is, saints. And can you get that by living a good life, being sweet, kind, and gentle, and having a moral code? Brother, listen. You got that by faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The same thing that Abraham... same way Abraham got it. He got His justification by faith in the resurrection of his body and of his seed, and that seed was Christ. Are you clear that you cannot gain God's merit? That it is by faith alone.

Please stop here for a moment and look at four of the main characters in the book of Galatians. Abraham, old and dead. Sarah, old and dead, weak, sterile, impotent, almost dead, as good as dead. Peter, wishy-washy, hypocrite, man pleaser, Paul, religious, fanatical, murderer. You are weak, impotent, totally incapable of living a decent life, even with the help of all the legalists in America. A total failure at obeying law. Absolutely true. You, it is you. It is to you that God comes with grace. Can you understand the point he's trying to make? It's going to be all of him and none of you. He picks the kind of people Abraham, Sarah, Paul, and Peter are—helpless, hopeless creatures to show forth His grace that no man may boast. If you don't understand what I just said, I have a recommendation for you: that you get under more law and preach it. You believe it, and you demand it of others, and you watch them. You monitor your own heart, think up some more rules, speak on authority, speak on submission, watch people, watch dog them, make sure they do this and do that, adjust them, preach all sorts of morality, and keep monitoring your heart. You'll find out you're wicked, impotent, and utterly sinful, incapable of living up to your own standard, even though you press it on others. One day, you're going to run for grace, and when you get there, will you keep on after you have received it, run in it, and not revert back to the law? Because you are as impotent now as you were before you were converted to fulfill the law of man or the law of God. Are you here?

I want to talk to you just for a moment about the child conductor. In Rome and in Italy, among the wealthy, there were slaves whose job was to take the child from the rich family, the bus driver of that day. Streets were very dangerous, and there was a schoolteacher, but that's not what this refers to. This one takes the little children of the wealthy family through the dirty streets. He makes sure they don't get run over by a chariot. He makes sure that those thugs down that street don't get hold of these kids. Guard them against the mud and the dirt and the rain and the traffic and the garbage being thrown out of the windows above, which was what they did on that day. Keep their feet clean from all the filth on the ground, and bring them to school. Then, that evening comes, gets them, and conducts them back home to their father and mother.

The law's job is to show you Abraham's impotence, Sarah's death, Paul's religious fanaticism, and utter inability; as fanatical as he was driven, he could not obey that which he himself believed. Peter's instability, and to have shown that to you say had enough. Come, I will take you home safely. That teacher you were taken to every day was saying thou shalt. Thou shalt not. Thou shalt, thou shalt not. You'd better look out. You'd better be nice. Santa Claus has come to town. He knows who's been good and he knows who's been bad. He's got a list. He's checking it twice. I've

forgotten the words, obviously. God will love you if you do this, and God won't love you if you don't, and you fail and fail and fail again. You just keep making Fs. Every one of us does. And the child conductor comes and says, "Would you like to go back home and take you away from all this?" The little kid says, "Yeah, I just can't handle this. I'm a failure." He takes the child home to Christ, to His grace, and to His peace, and all Paul is saying is when you get there, stay there. *When you get there, stay there.* You've already gotten there. Everyone has got there. Probably, every person in this room is genuinely converted. Your problem is not that you didn't get converted; your problem is that you went back to where you came from. Come on home to the Lord Jesus Christ. Okay, that's our child conductor.

Now I'm going to come to an end. Verse 25. But now that faith has come, we're no longer under a child conductor. What came? Faith came, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourself with Christ. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise. I'm just going to close by letting you see something. When you had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God did an incredible thing with you. If you can see this, please. Now, I want you to understand that this is what God sees. God picked you up and plunged you inside of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, that's what this says. To the point that you were clothed with Christ, and then having been clothed with Christ, you got lost in there somewhere, and you became one with Him. When you were plunged into Christ and became one with Him, you lost your identity as an employer or an employee. You lost your bloodline, French, Spanish, Italian, English, Scandinavian, German, Chinese, black, white, red, or yellow. Is there something I left out? Red and yellow, black and white. Okay. You lost your gender, too. As surely as the slave and the free man became the same, and the Jew and the heathen became the same, the male and the female became the same. You were lost inside of Jesus Christ.

Now, I have to ask you a question. You are that one with Him; so much so, we have spoken of a species that's neither male nor female, nor Jew or free, a Jew or Greek nor free, Jew or Greek nor bond or free or male nor female, but is one. That means you're Christ's. C H R I S T apostrophe. You're Christ's. You're His, and you're lost in Him. You're one with Him. I only have to ask you one question. Is Jesus Christ under the law? No. Did He come after the law or before the law? Before the law. Is He above the law or below the law? And to make sure, He also fulfilled the law. I want you all to get this. We're going to go over this.

You've heard the word egotistical. Have you ever heard the word egocentric? It's not an ugly word. It means that you're centered... "I" centered. You have a consciousness of yourself, an awareness of yourself. Many people don't have that. They're very strongly other-centered and do not have an "I" centered view at all. And sometimes they have to get healthier by becoming more conscious of themselves. I want to introduce you to the most "I" centered creature that ever existed...and that's your Lord. Yes, He was "you"- centered, "you"- conscious, but he was "I"- centered. Go read the gospels. I have come from my Father. I am before you. I am above you. I will be after you. Before Abraham was, I AM. I come from above. You are from beneath. You do not know Me. My Father knows Me. Those who have been called will know Me. The sheep will hear my

voice. There is nothing wrong with that. He got here first, saints, and He is God, and He was All. But I would to God you could understand that He is the freest creature who ever lives. He is the freest creature who ever lived.

Now go ahead and be unhappy with that if you want to. Try to poke holes in it if you wish, but the fact is, He is the freest creature who ever existed. Do you understand that the living God today will do absolutely anything He wants to do? He will do absolutely anything He wishes to do. Lord, forgive me. I'm going to make a point. He will sin if He wishes to. The Lord knows I'm covered. He doesn't want to, but that frightened you when you heard it. Gene, that's terrible. He wouldn't go sin. You're trying to help God, protect God. He's free. One of the reasons He gave the law was to show you how free He was.

There is no creature in the universe as free as He is. Utterly totally free. I wish you could marinate on that for a while and see the freedom of your God. Now, you have been placed inside of Him, plunged into Him, and been made one with Him so that He can put you in bondage and make you live under an ethical code. It doesn't make sense, does it? He has invited you into His freedom. He has invited you into His freedom. If that's not clear in chapter 3, it will be clear in chapters 4 and 5. You have become a son of the living God. And that is not a statement. That's not a legalistic... a legal term, a judicial term. That is a biological fact. You have taken on His seed. You have taken on His nature. You have taken on His existence and His life. You have become a biological child of God, as biologically His child as Jesus is biologically His child, for you are in Him and of His divine seed.

When you were so given this glorious inheritance, which is God, and the promise was fulfilled in that seed that you would be so blessed, gentile, as to become His child and to become one with Him. You were invited into His freedom from the law and into His freedom. Christ has not only set you free, but given His freedom, and if you have any sense of what that means... if you don't have, look at the Lord Jesus Christ who lives on this earth and watch Him: He never says an unkind thing toward any sinner. Did you notice that? Women were actually caught in the act of adultery... didn't even seem to bother Him. Am I being fair here? A holy God. Child, don't do that again. Is that not true? Wow. They were going to kill her, but the God above the law... "child, don't do that again." You know why? I figure she didn't because she had met the God of all mercies. Going through the fields. It's Saturday. He's eating food. Hey, I am Lord of the Sabbath. I rule the Sabbath; the Sabbath does not rule Me. I will soon take the Sabbath and nail it to the cross and end it forever, and when I do, I'll take every other law there is in existence and nail it there, too. I'll tell you who He saved His wrath for, His insults, His denunciations, His anathemas. Not for the lady caught in adultery, to whom He said, "Don't do that again," but to those who came and visited you in Galatia and tried to get you to obey a human standard that would in some way cause you to merit His favor. To them, He absolutely reigned wrath and judgment on them. He's free. You are in Him, and you are His child. Praise the Lord.