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## Made Alive by the Spirit, Gal. 3:1-6

By Aaron Shamp

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### Introduction

- What does the work of the Spirit of God look like? What does he do?
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### Beginning

- What is the controversy about? People had come to the Galatian church and taught that they need to add works to their salvation.
  - Paul emphasizes that the Christian life is continued in the same way that it is begun.
- **Point:** Receiving the Spirit is the beginning of the Christian life.
  - When you become a Christian it is a brand new life.
    - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, 5 made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses.” -- Ephesians 2:4-5 (CSB)
    - “Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. 8 The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” -- John 3:5-8 (CSB)
  - This new life is effected by receiving the Spirit of Christ—the Holy Spirit. He makes us alive.

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## Belief

- How do we receive the Spirit?
  - Paul emphasizes that they received the Spirit by faith in the gospel that they heard (2-5).
- **Point:** Receiving the Spirit is done through believing the gospel.
  - What is the goal of the gospel? *Not* getting a ticket to heaven, *not* just being forgiven, *not* just renewal, but *receiving God*.
    - "The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could receive the promised Spirit through faith." -- Galatians 3:14 (CSB)
  - And this is accomplished by the work of Christ. We receive the reward of his work by faith.
- **APP:** Continue as you begun.
  - Paul says that after beginning by the Spirit we do not continue by our works. Instead, we continue to receive new life by the power of the Spirit given to us by grace.

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## Benefit

- The Spirit gives great benefits. Remember that he enters your heart to give you the experience of knowing God.
- **Point:** Receiving the Spirit is accompanied with great experience.
  - Three great ordinary experiences of the Spirit:
    - Gal. 4:6 the experience of discovering a heavenly Father.
      - This is more than a sensual experience. Because a sensual experience will disappear. Eating a great meal will go away.
    - The experience of entering a new family.
    - The experience of the fruit of the Spirit.