The Book of Galatians

Bible Study

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Bold Truth:
God has created a clear pathway to Encounter Him. Don’t make it hard on yourself and complicate the process. Stay consistent in your belief and relationship with God. God has torn down the challenging pathway of getting to him that required human effort.

Key to discover: The true pathway to God is only through Faith in Jesus. God has made it simple; Belief in Jesus is the pathway to God. Although the process is simplified, believing in Jesus doesn’t mean it’s the easy way because if it were easy, it wouldn’t require faith. We all know having faith is not Easy.

Context:
The Churches in Galatia were being tempted and taught to rebuild an old pathway to God that requires human effort, which added to their load of becoming new in God. However, Paul strongly reminded them not to entertain a pathway to God that required human effort because they would simply be rebuilding what God had torn down through Jesus Christ. Let’s be clear Christ did not tear down the law; he fulfilled the law, which means he tore down our need to use human effort to be righteous before God.

Human Effort Cannot Provide Divine Righteousness

The Pathway to be Made Right Before God
Galatians 2:15-17
Why is Faith in Christ so important for the pathway of righteousness?

In Verse 15, Paul reminds Peter that no one, even Jews, can be justified or be made right by human effort.
15 “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in[d]Christ and not by the works of the law because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Jesus did what we Could not do: Jesus Took No Short Cuts.
Through the Sacrificial work of the cross, Jesus Won the Battle with Sin and fulfilled every law Qualifying him to be the living Standard for righteousness. Why is it important for Christ be to the Living Standard for Righteousness?

Romans chapter 3 NLT
25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

The Word Justification Means to be Declared Righteous.
The Goal for every believer is a relationship with God. Due to sin, we wear a blemish that disqualifies us from being acceptable in the presence of God without Christ. God requires holiness.
Leviticus 19–20: 'Be Holy for I Am Holy’” Old

We needed to be Declared Righteous because every day, we are being accused by the accuser of the brethren.

Stand Acquitted: Did you know that Satan tries to accuse us all before God?
All men are accused of wrong by the Devil
Rev 12:10
“And I heard a great voice in heaven, saying, Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accuseth them before our God day and night.”

Christ is the only Answer:
Christ was the only one who stood in front of God, and none of the accusations could stand. This is why he was blameless and ready for the sacrifice.

To be Justified or Declared right, Christ had to be the sacrificial lamb and fulfill every Standard set by God through the law of Moses.
So, Christ becomes the Standard. When we believe or have faith in Jesus, we enter into Covenant with Jesus, who is the Standard.

Romans chapter 3
21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses[a] and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious Standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

God has shown us a way that keeps the law given to Moses but takes the responsibility of upholding God’s Standard for righteousness and holiness that is required to be in His presence away from us.

The new Pathway to God through Christ acknowledges that we are sinners but allows us to focus more on developing our faith relationship with Jesus Christ through the Spirit rather than spending all our time “righting” our wrongs as sinners. We can concentrate completely on growing closer to God.

Our Faith Relationship with God allows us to Rely on Christ’s Sacrificial work.
This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past.
Galatians 2:16
16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by
faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Our belief through Faith and Confidence in Christ being the only one to never sin and sacrifice His life on the cross for our Sins and being raised from the dead places us on the pathway to righteousness.

However, there is step two to the belief. In our faith, we also should have confidence that through the power of the Holy Spirit and the work of Christ in our lives, we will no longer be slaves to our sinful nature.

Now The Real Question?

If Human Effort alone is not required can I use Grace as an excuse to do what I want?

Galatians 2:17
17 “But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! 18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a lawbreaker.

We do not have to give in to temptation

Romans Chapter 6:1
"Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

Taking Christ as my Standard in faith is not only me benefiting from my belief in who Christ is and what Christ has done but also taking on the Challenge of Dying to the Flesh to become like Christ, the Standard. Through the Power of the Holy Spirit, my faith in Christ is also about believing that I can become the Standard set for me. The difference is I am not doing the work, and it is Christ doing the work in me through the Spirit.

Galatians 2
19 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

As Christ starts working in us through the Spirit, we begin to walk in the fullness of the Standard he has set for us and begin to bear fruit.

Eph 4:13-18

To believe in Jesus as the Son of God and only one to not sin and follow Him as the Standard takes faith.