

Senseless Christians

**2-4-18
EXPANDED**

Galatians 3:1 (ESV)

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Galatians 3:1 (AMP)

O YOU poor *and* silly *and* thoughtless *and* unreflecting *and* senseless Galatians! Who has cast a spell over you!

This goes back to Paul being astonished in Gal.1:6!

Galatians 1:6 (ESV)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel!

**Their actions are incomprehensible to Paul.
Therefore Paul asks another question to bring them back to their senses.**

Senseless Christians

Galatians 3:2 (ESV)

Let me ask you only this: **Did you receive the Spirit** by works of the law or by hearing with faith?

KEY: Foremost Paul was concerned that they had exchanged Grace for the Law. However, equally incomprehensible was distorting the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Senseless Christians

Galatians 3:3 (ESV)

Are you so foolish? **Having begun by the Spirit**, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

You began by believing not based on what you did (you didn't earn it)! No, from the very beginning you were changed and empowered by the Spirit.

Beginning in the Spirit brought powerful manifestations:

Acts 2:2–4 (ESV)

² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 10:44–47 (ESV)

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

Acts 19:2–6 (ESV)

² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ... ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

Senseless Christians

Galatians 3:4 (ESV)

Did you suffer (experienced) so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?

Paul is bringing to mind the Galatians’ previous spiritual experiences. The NEB takes this approach by translating, “Have all your great experiences been in vain ...?” In this case, the experiences of the Galatians are further amplified by the reminder in v. 5 that God was working miracles in their midst through the power of his Holy Spirit.

The meaning could be paraphrased as ‘Have you had such wonderful spiritual experiences all to no purpose?’ (cf. NEB). This would fit the context better, with its references to the gift of the Spirit and the subsequent miraculous manifestations (v. 5). Again, *Acts 14:10 would be an example of such experiences. Doubtless there were also many unrecorded instances of similar happenings.

*Acts 14:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ Now at Lystra (a town in Galatia) there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, ¹⁰ said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.

Paul is loath even to admit the possibility of such experiences being all *in vain*. **For, if the Galatians slip back from the gospel, it will mean not only the end of all such manifestations of the Spirit.** It will also mean that they might as well never have had the experience at all, for all the good that it did them. Christ would have died to no purpose as far as they were concerned; **the Spirit would have been given them to no purpose also.**

Senseless Christians

Galatians 3:5 (ESV)

Does **he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you** do so by works of the law, or **by hearing with faith.**

KEY: No doubt that the main question is, “You receive the Spirit and miracles by faith and not by works of the Law.” However, it is also saying that believers should be experiencing power of the Spirit and miracles now just as at the beginning.

Commentary #1

Nothing must be allowed to obscure the point Paul is making, so once more he voices the test question of v. 2. There are some differences, however. First, v. 2 presents the question from the point of view of the Galatians, asking on what basis it was that they received God's Spirit. **Verse 5 looks at the matter from God's point of view, asking on what basis God is working miracles among them.** The two verses also differ in that the past tense of v. 2, which looks back to the initial moment of the Galatians' faith in Christ, gives way to present participles in v. 5. The present participles ("gives" and "works") anticipate the end of the argument, **for it is evident that blessing in the Christian life comes just as the Christian life began—through faith,** and not as the result of any human attainments.

Commentary #2

With this Paul returns to the decisive question of ver. 2, but with some variation of the thought. He no longer sets the matter back into the past, **but represents (no doubt designedly) the communication of the Spirit as something still going on,** on the ground of faith. **They were to recognize themselves as still experiencing this gracious operation of God.** Besides this, he singles out and notes **particularly the miraculous powers which God communicates through the same medium.** [The word, supply, "ministereth" means "to supply bountifully."

The ἐπί in the compound indicates the direction of the supply, not an enlargement of it. This may be rendered either, “miracles among you,” or better, “miraculous powers in you,” *i. e.*, the peculiar powers there brought by the Spirit, **which Paul everywhere alludes to**, as observable in the Christians to whom he writes (*1 Cor. 12:28). MEYER decides for the latter from the analogy of **1 Cor. 12:6, and it suits better the line of argument, **which refers throughout to their personal experience.**—R.]

*1 Corinthians 12:28 (ESV)

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

**1 Corinthians 12:6 (ESV)

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

The gospel is naturally evidenced by Miracles!

Moreover he now designates God expressly as the Bestower of the Spirit, doubtless, in order to bring home with special emphasis the truth that God Himself declared for the preaching of faith. **God declares this among the Galatians because He has declared it in His word, and He must ever agree with Himself. Therefore, HE acts according to His testimony.** For the Scripture proof which follows supports this idea.

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV)

⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Senseless Christians

Paul is talking to the ones who clearly understood that Jesus was crucified. He is talking to Christians!

#1 - Question? Did you receive the Spirit by hearing by faith?

#2 - Question? Are you so SENSELESS that having begun by receiving the Spirit, you now work by self-effort without the leading and power of the Holy Spirit?

#3 - Question? Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit all for nothing?

#4 - Question? Are you continuing to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit who continues to work miracles among you by faith?

We are not - Senseless Christians

1) Senseless Christians do not believe in the work of the Holy Spirit, being foolish and bewitched!

2) Senseless Christians do not believe in the work of the Holy Spirit, being silly and thoughtless and unreflecting and bewitched just like someone cast a spell over them.

**We are not – Senseless Christians
Holy Fire Tools Class! The religious have the most trouble with the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**We are not – Senseless Christians
Our Prophetic Team:
“PROPHECY OCCURS WHEN A REVELATION FROM GOD IS REPORTED IN THE PROPHET’S OWN (MERELY HUMAN) WORDS” Excerpt From: Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology. PROPHECY is telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind which foretells something of the future or changes the present.**

I always close with the clear gospel that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. Therefore we are forgiven. **However, the gospel also clearly proclaims that receiving the Holy Spirit is intricately imbedded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, take special note of these verses speaking of Christ’s death on the cross and the Holy Spirit.**

Galatians 3:13–14 (ESV)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us **SO THAT** we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Call out to the Lord! Come Holy Spirit Come!

Prophetic Team

***Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current
situation or impact the future***