

In the Late 40s A.D., Paul Told the Galatians the Holy Spirit Replaced the Law

Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (3:24-25)

In Galatians we learn that:

1. ***Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*** We receive the Holy Spirit by placing our faith in Christ, not by keeping the Law or any act of the flesh (3:2).
2. ***Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*** We are neither perfected by keeping laws nor any act of the flesh but by the Holy Spirit (3:3, 5).
3. ***In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*** We receive the blessings of the faith of Abraham—a personal relationship with God—as a promise of the Holy Spirit through faith, not law (3:14).
4. ***But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also.*** Because we live according to the Spirit, we shall be persecuted by those who live under law [because the Spirit takes us to the character of God which never can be captured by any law] (4:29).
5. ***You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*** We cannot live both ways—by law and by the Holy Spirit. [Any law is of the flesh, but for the Galatians, it was the Jewish practice of the Mosaic Law.] If we live by law, then we have fallen from the age of grace. The goal of the Law was to nationally govern Israel, but our goal is the hope for righteousness (5:4-5).
6. ***But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh*** (5:16). The deeds of the flesh are usually controlled by laws. Adultery, drunkenness, and outbursts of anger can be identified, quantified, and prohibited with a law. But the fruit of the Spirit can never be quantified or established by laws. For example, no law can measure or control our love, joy, peace, patience, etc. (5:16-25).
7. ***Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...*** When some believer gets caught up in a sin (one of those deeds of the flesh in 5:19-21), those who are spiritual (living by the desires of the Spirit in 5:22-23) should restore the sinner to righteousness (6:1).
8. ***For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*** The spiritual life and the fleshly (sinful) life both come about by sowing seeds toward that life. Whatever we sow, that's what we reap (6:8).

For more information see ***The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Life*** on Relational Concepts web page:
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