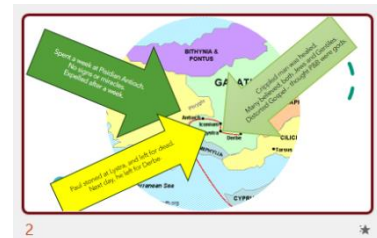


# HEAVEN'S FREEDOM

## (#1 Galatians)

**Introduction:** How did you start your spiritual journey?

- How do churches start?
- Paul and Barnabas sent out, confirmed by the Holy Spirit to visit the area called “Galatia” (Acts 13-14)
- They visited:
  - Pisidian Antioch where many Jews and Gentiles believed.
    - After a week the whole city came out to hear them.
    - No miracles or signs recorded.
    - They were then expelled.
  - Lystra and Derbe
    - Started with crippled man healed.
    - Many believed, both Jews and Gentiles.
    - Distorted gospel – some tried to worship Paul and Barnabas.
    - Paul was stoned, dragged outside the city; left for dead.



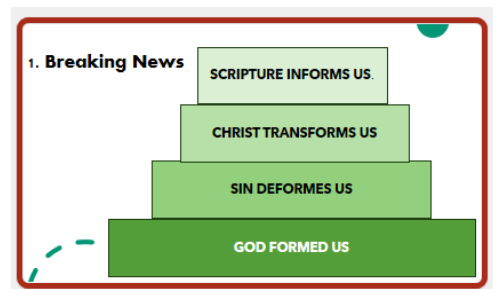
**Acts 14:20** *But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.*

- That’s how three churches got started.

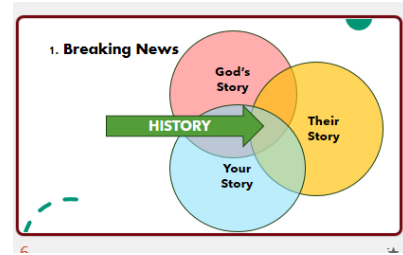
### 1. Breaking News.

Galatians 1:3-4 *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and father...*

- Good News:
  - God formed us – design
  - Sin deformed us – fallen short
  - Christ Transforms us
  - Scripture informs us.



- Paul’s story – Galatians 1:11-2:19 (Homework!)
- Most people receive Jesus because of:
  - Conviction
  - Curiosity
  - Crisis.



**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

## 2. Distortion.

- Paul’s statement: “foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?”
  - Asks two questions:

**Galatians 3:2-3** *I would like to learn just one thing from you: did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*

- Have you received the Holy Spirit?
  - What does having the Holy Spirit look like?
- How did you receive the Holy spirit?
  - What is it like now?

**Galatians 3:5** *Did God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*

## 3. The Promise

ILLUSTRATION: David Pawson’s chaplaincy question: “What is a Christian?”

**Galatians 3:6** *Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”*

- Key word: “Believed”.
  - Believed IN, not ABOUT.
- Abraham: believed enough to leave his old lifestyle behind (idols).

- Believed enough to leave his homeland.
- Believed enough to build an altar of worship at every place.
- Believed God when He said *“All nations of the earth will be blessed...”*
  - Who is that? Israel?
  - Sometimes Israel was good; other times not so...

**Galatians 3:16** *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The scripture does not say: “And to seeds,” meaning many people, but: “and to your seed” meaning one person, who is Christ.*

- “seed” is Christ.

#### **4. Our Inheritance.**

- What is our inheritance?

*Galatians 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

- Redeemed – paid for not worked for.
  - Blessing given to Abraham – to Gentiles.
  - By faith receive the Holy Spirit.
- What’s the purpose of the Laws of the Old Testament?.
  - Law of Moses was an agreement between God and Israel.
  - Keeping the Law of Moses was not given to save, but to obey.
  - There still had to be blood sacrifice for people’s sins.
- People tend to add to the laws...

QUOTE: <sup>1</sup> *Nothing in the Torah, the teaching of Yahweh, forbids a Jew from associating with or visiting a Gentile. Absolutely nothing. This forbiddance is 100% the work of man, a tradition passed down in Judaism. The reason it is passed down has to do with purity laws.*

*Certain things that Gentiles do can cause a Jew to become unclean. So to prevent themselves from even the possibility of becoming unclean, Judaism simply made it a law and custom that Jews could not eat or have fellowship with Gentiles. But let me reiterate, this was not God's design or law.*

**Conclusion:** How do I walk in Heaven's freedom?

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

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<sup>1</sup> Gentile Salvation, the Mystery of the Will of God. [Gentile Salvation, the Mystery of the Will of God – Path of Obedience](#)