

Galatians 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Analysis

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. This verse states the dual purpose of Christ's redemptive curse-bearing:

1. so that 'the blessing of Abraham' (see verses 8-9) 'might come on the Gentiles' (hina eis ta ethnē hē eulogia tou Abraam genētai, ἵνα εἰς τὰ ἔθνη ἡ εὐλογία τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ γένηται)—the Abrahamic promise now extends to the nations
2. so that 'we might receive the promise of the Spirit' (hina tēn epangelian tou pneumatos labōmen, ἵνα τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πνεύματος λάβωμεν)—both Jew ('us,' v. 13) and Gentile receive the Spirit.

The phrase 'through Jesus Christ' (en Christō Iēsou, ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ) identifies the means: union with Christ, who bore the curse. 'The promise of the Spirit' is the Spirit Himself, the fulfillment of Old Testament promises (Isaiah 32:15, 44:3

Ezekiel 36:27; Joel 2:28-29). The Spirit is both blessing and the guarantee of the full inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14). Both reception clauses end with 'through faith' (dia tēs pisteōs, διὰ τῆς πίστεως)—faith remains the sole means of receiving these blessings.

This verse ties together Paul's argument: Christ redeemed us from the curse (v. 13)

so Abraham's blessing reaches Gentiles (fulfilling Genesis 12:3, quoted in v. 8) and so all believers receive the promised Spirit (echoing verses 2-5). The Judaizers offered Gentiles conditional, Law-based blessing; Paul offers them full, unconditional, Spirit-based blessing through Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection.

Historical Context

The 'promise of the Spirit' alludes to Joel 2:28-29 (quoted at Pentecost, Acts 2:17-21), where God promises to pour out His Spirit on 'all flesh' in the last days. Peter's Pentecost sermon announced the fulfillment: the Spirit is now given to all who repent and believe (Acts 2:38-39). The Gentile Pentecost at Cornelius's house (Acts 10:44-48) proved the Spirit comes to uncircumcised Gentiles by faith. Paul's argument in Galatians 3 hinges on this undeniable reality: Gentiles received the Spirit without circumcision (v. 2), proving God justifies by faith, not Law-works.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does verse 14 connect Christ's curse-bearing (v. 13) to the inclusion of Gentiles in Abraham's blessing?
2. What is the significance of the Spirit being called 'the promise of the Spirit'— both the promise and the fulfillment?
3. How does receiving the Spirit 'through faith' dismantle any attempt to add Law-works as a requirement for full blessing?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα εἰς τὰ ἔθνη ἡ εὐλογία τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ γένηται
That on the Gentiles the blessing of Abraham might come
G2443 G1519 G3588 G1484 G3588 G2129 G3588 G11 G1096

ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἵνα τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πνεύματος
through Christ Jesus That the promise of the Spirit
G1722 G5547 G2424 G2443 G3588 G1860 G3588 G4151

λάβωμεν διὰ τῆς πίστεως
we might receive through faith
G2983 G1223 G3588 G4102

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 12:13 (Spirit): For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18 (Spirit): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Galatians 3:2 (Faith): This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Acts 2:33 (Covenant): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Ezekiel 11:19 (Spirit): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

Isaiah 32:15 (Spirit): Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

John 7:39 (Faith): (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

1 Peter 1:22 (Spirit): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Isaiah 49:6 (Parallel theme): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Ephesians 2:22 (Spirit): In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

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