

Galatians 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

Analysis

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. The conclusion (hōste, ὥστε) follows logically: 'they which be of faith' (hoi ek pisteōs, οἱ ἐκ πίστεως)—literally 'the faith-ones'—are 'blessed with' (syn, σύν, 'together with') faithful Abraham. The word 'blessed' (eulogountai, ἐὺλογοῦνται) picks up the blessing-promise of verse 8, now in present tense: believers are currently being blessed alongside Abraham.

The descriptor 'faithful Abraham' (tō pistō Abraam, τῷ πιστῷ Ἀβραάμ) emphasizes his character as 'the believing one'—Abraham is defined by faith, and all who share his faith share his blessing. The article tō (τῷ) makes pistō (πιστῷ) a title: Abraham the Believer. Those who believe are blessed together with Abraham the Believer—faith is the unifying principle across the centuries.

This verse completes Paul's Abraham argument:

1. Abraham was justified by faith (v. 6)
2. Faith-people are Abraham's children (v. 7)
3. Scripture promised blessing to all nations through Abraham (v. 8)
4. Therefore faith-people share Abraham's blessing (v. 9).

The Judaizers insisted blessing comes through Law; Paul insists blessing comes through faith, the same faith Abraham exercised. We are co-heirs with Abraham—not through circumcision, but through shared faith.

Historical Context

The 'blessing of Abraham' includes justification (v. 8), covenant sonship (v. 7), the Holy Spirit (v. 14), and inheritance of the promises (v. 29). Jewish theology restricted these blessings to ethnic Israel or Gentile proselytes who became Jews via circumcision. Paul's radical claim: Gentile believers receive Abraham's blessings directly through faith, without becoming Jews. This same principle grounds the New Covenant: in Christ, the barriers between Jew and Gentile are abolished (Ephesians 2:11-22), and all believers are co-heirs of Abraham.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What specific blessings do you share with Abraham as a fellow faith-believer?
How does this change your self-understanding?
2. How does being 'blessed with faithful Abraham' give you confidence that God's promises to him apply to you personally?
3. In what ways might you need to shift from seeking blessing through religious performance to resting in the blessing you already have through faith?

Interlinear Text

ὥστε	οἱ	ἐκ	πίστεως	εὐλογοῦνται	σὺν	τῷ
So then	G3588	they which be of	faith	are blessed	with	G3588
G5620		G1537	G4102	G2127	G4862	
πιστῷ	Ἀβραάμ					
faithful	Abraham					
G4103	G11					

Additional Cross-References

Romans 4:16 (Faith): Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Galatians 3:29 (References Abraham): And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 4:24 (Faith): But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Romans 4:11 (Faith): And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Galatians 4:28 (Parallel theme): Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Galatians 3:14 (Faith): That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.