

# Grace's Q Series

## #4: Spirit

**John 14:12-19; Galatians 3:1-6**

**Dr. Matt Cassidy --- December 1, 2019**

Hey, let's pray.

*Lord, we're grateful that You are the eye of the storm; You are that place of safety in a world that's spinning around us; that You will lead us to a lion's den but not leave us there alone. You'll let us experience the fiery furnace and You'll walk with us through that furnace; that You are the place of refuge; that regardless of our circumstances, Your promises and Your character are always true. Lord, I'd ask that You would open our hearts to what this passage that we're going to look at today has in store for us; that You would allow us to be focused, undistracted; that Your spirit would shake our spirit so that we might hear the power of the gospel in our lives and how it's to be worked out. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Have a seat. Good morning and Happy Thanksgiving. It's a happy Thanksgiving indeed. We're going to look at a passage of Scripture and you can turn there if you want. It's Galatians chapter 3, and we're going to look at --- it's not supposed to be, but it's a secret ... (Excuse me, my shirt shrank over the Thanksgiving break.) We're going to learn what's not supposed to be a secret --- living out the Christian life. And to do that I'm going to review. We're in the last week of a series together talking about our church, Grace. We've celebrated fifty years and now we kind of wanted to say, "Okay, that's the last fifty. What are we going to do with the next fifty?" And it's going to all come together, as you see how the pieces work together as it applies to this passage.

### **We Exist to Glorify God**

So, why do we exist? We saw this in the weeks preceding. We exist to glorify God by guiding people to become like Christ in all of life. We glorify God by guiding people to become like Christ in all of life. I don't want to get too far ahead, so let's stop and look at the word "glorify" --- to glorify God. It's so important. The word "glorify" certainly means to give honor

or praise. Those are church words and they're true. But they're not very concrete. So, there's an application, an aspect of glory, that I'd like for you to entertain. Because it's a major motivation for what we do, how we do it, and why we do it at all. Look at glory this way. Every story needs a hero and the hero gets the glory. The hero is what the story is about in a lot of ways. We remember the story by remembering the hero. And in the context of Grace Covenant Church, we want God to be the hero of every story here. We want God to receive the glory of every story here. Do we play a part? Sure, we play a part. But not the part of the hero.



Let me give kind of a concrete way to help visualize this. When I was in seminary, our school --- the student body kind of put it together --- it was a two-on-two football tournament. And we played it at lunchtime in the courtyard. And I was the quarterback of my two-on-two team and we never lost. We went undefeated and kind of were the champions. And here's how this worked. These are my roommates in seminary, there were four of us. And my partner was that guy spinning the ball on his finger because that's Ralph and he was an exceptional athlete. I was able to complete ninety-seven of my passes because this was our play. Ralph would say this: "Matt, just throw the ball up there and I'm going to get underneath it." And doggone it, he was so fast that he could get underneath anything that I threw. And so, I threw, he caught, we won. We won everything. We never lost. But here's the point. When we talk about the big championships --- because I'm sure they're still talking about it at seminary --- they don't talk

about me. I'm not the hero of that story. Ralph is the hero of that story and Ralph gets the glory. He ran under every crazy thing I threw up in the sky. That's hero --- that's how glory works.

King David --- he's just a really good rock thrower. He's not the hero of the story. He doesn't get glory. And that's because he says this to Goliath: "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin. I come to you in the name of the God of war." *Goliath, catch this*. And that's why in that story YHWH is the hero. David knew he was playing a minor role, but the glory goes to the hero, and the hero is YHWH.

So here at Grace Covenant Church, when we say "Glorify God by ...", it's because we want Him to receive that glory because He is the focal of each one of these stories that we tell --- every little bitty one we have. We say that we're here to make disciples, we're a discipleship church.

### **To Be a Disciple Means to Become Like Christ in All**

And what is a disciple? That means to become like Christ in all of life. We're not a church that says, "Hey, let's go help people convert to Christianity" and then move on, and convert to Christianity. Or we help you convert to Christianity and you help people convert to Christianity and it's all about how many people convert. Actually, we're a church that says, "No. The Bible says to make disciples, and they make disciples." And so, at Grace, we're trying to become complete, help you become like Christ in all of your life while you're helping other people become like Christ in all of their lives. So, we're constantly guiding and being guided with each other. And so, at Grace we talk about making disciples, and that's what we've been talking about the last couple of weeks in the context of how do we make disciples? How do we get this done? How do we help people become like Christ in all of life?

Well, we've talked about truth. We love the Bible and that's a very important part of how God works in people's lives. We've talked about relationships. Everybody needs a buddy --- last week. And then this week, here we go. Today we will talk about what I consider the most neglected aspect of Christian growth in the history of the church. For 2,000 years, churches have failed to teach the power of this aspect of the gospel. Here we go.

## **God's Plan: To Make You His Perfect Child**

Here is God's will for your life. Here is God's plan. He's going to make you His perfect child. God's plan is to make you His perfect Child. That's what He is going to do. YHWH sets His mind to that and that will happen. Now in that phrase right there, there are two parts of it. I'm going to use some church words here. The first part is to make you His child. That is called salvation and particularly, the word is justification. I'll explain more later.

And then the second part of the two-step ambition that God has for us is to make us His perfect child. That is being made holy. Or another word would be "sanctification.

So the first one is to make you His child --- that's justification. The second one is to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ. That's called sanctification. But YHWH --- make no mistake about this --- He's going to make you His perfect child.

Now this is the key to everything here. This is the part that people miss. The way God makes you His child is the same way He will make you His perfect child. Look at that. *The way God makes you His child is the same way that He will make you His perfect child.* Same method, same means, same everything.

### **Justification → Salvation → Becoming a Child of God**

So how does He make you His child? Let's look at that. Salvation is the same as sanctification. This is how God makes you His child. This is salvation. This is justification. Be clear --- it is not by works. It is not by doing good. You don't go to church or mass or do various things so that you can earn a place in His standing or so that you might be able to have a conversation with Him, whatever that ramp that you might be on. This is what the Bible says clearly, that salvation comes by faith alone, in grace alone, in Christ alone. Faith alone in grace alone by Jesus Christ alone. Just to picture this so you can see this --- this is on purpose here --- grace literally means "gift." So, when we say "grace", let's not confuse that. It means it's a gift. It's a free gift. And so, this is the definition of Christianity; it is trusting only alone in that. Trust alone, not doing anything, in that gift alone, because it's more than sufficient. It's going to pay all the bills that we need to pay. And the gift is from Jesus Christ alone. That's what it means. That's how you become justified.

And it has to be that way --- all those “alones.” It has to be that way, because if you take one of those away, the formula doesn’t work. If you worked for a gift, it’s not a gift. And it has to be gift. It has to be grace alone. And so, if I were to give you that big gift over there, and you say, “Well, how much do I owe you?” Well, if you pay me it’s merely an exchange. It’s a purchase, is what it is. You can’t purchase your salvation. I mean, that’s one of the problems here. Here’s a gift – no, it’s a free gift. And the promise --- if you believe in the promise of God -- this is where faith is --- if you trust in the promise of God, if you trust that the gift of Jesus’ death and the resurrection that came afterwards was payment in full, your debt against God the Father and His holiness, that He quenched your shame and replaced that with honor, He took your powerlessness and gave you His power --- if you believe that, the Bible says you are, quote, justified. And when the Bible uses the word “justified” it’s very important to understand that it’s a legal term and they’re doing that on purpose.

There are a couple of illustrations in our own experience. When you are standing before a judge and it’s a criminal case, the second that gavel hits and that judge says you are innocent, that moment you are justified. That’s when that term is used --- that second.

Another legal way we would use that is if you were up for adoption and the judge kind of took his rubber stamp and went, boom --- when that thing hits the page, that moment you have become adopted. You might not get to the parents for a week or sometimes a month, sometimes a year. But that baby is yours. If you’re that child, you are owned. Owned by who? It says here, God. You are justified at that very second.

Now that word “justified” is important, because now we’re going to look at how Paul is going to emphasize this point, that this justification cannot possibly happen with anything from us. It has to be a gift. Watch how Paul is going to use the word “justified” over and over again and how he’s going to constantly say how you *don’t* get it, and then he’s going to say how you *do* get it. He wants to make this clear.

## **Galatians 2:16**

**Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.**

In Galatians chapter 2 he says this: “Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith only in Jesus Christ. For we have put our faith in Jesus Christ that we may be justified by the faith in Jesus Christ” --- only the faith --- “and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”

He’s making it very clear that it’s a gift. And it’s an adequate gift. It’s more than adequate. You don’t have to add something to this gift to be justified. If you add something to the gift, you void the contract. You have to trust faith alone and that gift alone of salvation through Jesus, by Jesus alone. It can’t be any other way.

I’m going to tell you logically why it can’t be any other way. You can’t just do the next good thing and the next good thing and next good thing and find your way to justification. Here’s why. Because just doing the next good thing in any kind of culture, in any kind of religion --- it doesn’t have the power to change you. You might change habits, but you won’t change your soul. You won’t change the identity of who you are. You won’t change the essence of who you are. We are way too broken for that. You want to pay this off in little do-goods? I don’t think you understand what the debt is, the Bible would say. We’re way too broken. That’s part one. We can’t pay this. Someone else has to. That’s what Jesus did. It’s more than adequate.

The second part is this. It goes back to glory. Whose story is this? Who’s the hero? If I’m keeping score on just doing good things and obeying the law, I get a piece of that trophy. And I’m going to tell you something about how the universe works. No one shares the trophy with God. Salvation story --- it’s a God story. It’s all about God, it’s all about the gift, it’s all about what He did. He’s the hero. Listen to this. The Father chooses to send His Son. Glory be to God. The Son chooses to obey the Father and come here and die. Glory to God. The Spirit raises Jesus from the dead. Glory to God. He’s the hero. Father, Son, Holy Spirit --- they’re the hero, they get the glory.

Do we play a part in this story? You bet we do. We nailed Him to the cross. That's the part we played. That's what we do. And we do it well, don't we? To become a child of God, just to make sure we understand, you have to believe in a miraculous intervention from a holy God that chooses to pay those debts that we can't pay. It's a gift from the outside. And the end of the story goes like this. Everybody's salvation story, somewhere in it, it says this: *Oh, man, it's a God story. Sit down, I'm going to tell you this great God story.* It's always a God story because God's always the hero. And when we say that, we're giving glory to God. And that's how every story ends in the universe. Glory to God.

Now before we get into the second part of this, understanding, some of you who are here might not have ever chosen this method. This is the only road. This is the narrow road the Bible talks about --- how to become one of His children. And if you've trusted in anything but faith alone in that gift alone from Jesus alone, the Bible says you are not one of His. And if you want to change that, you can today. And we'll pray at the end, too, but you just say, "Look, I've been on the wrong road. I thought I could get something. I thought I could be part of this. I didn't realize how desperate things were. And now I receive that gift and I trust that that gift is enough, and it satisfies what is required so that I could become Yours." You can do that today. And the moment you believe that, that second you are justified. That's what Paul said. I'm just quoting him. That is salvation by grace alone. Okay?

### **Sanctification → Becoming a Perfect Child of God**

So, how are we sanctified? How do we become like Christ in all of life? This is the part that the Church for twenty centuries has missed. There's something about our nature, and I would say our fallen nature, that says, "Okay, now that I'm a child of God, I'm going to get to work here." Because what the Bible says is not that. The Bible says that what was a gift stays as a gift. Watch how Paul is coming after a church just a few years old. So, this goes back centuries. It just keeps happening to mankind. They keep wanting to start by grace and perfect by works. So, watch how critical Paul is to these people, and he calls them names. He's going to call them foolish at least twice. Watch. And he might be talking to us.



### **Galatians 3:1-3, 5**

**You foolish Galatians! Did someone cast a spell on you? <sup>2</sup> I would like to earn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? <sup>5</sup> So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?**

Galatians 3, verse 1: “You foolish Galatians! Did someone cast a spell on you? I would like to know this one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing by faith what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? So again, I’ve got to ask you, does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing in what you heard?”

You see how people are making a critical decision about how they become like Christ in all of life? And here’s the point, here’s the key --- I’m going to do it all over again. The way God makes you His child is the way He’s going to make you His perfect child. But it is like us to take the gift of salvation and say, “Okay, now I’m going to earn my way so that God likes me as His child.” Salvation is by faith alone in grace alone from Christ alone. That’s justification.

Could I explain to you sanctification? This is how it looks: faith alone, grace alone, by the Spirit alone. Now the Spirit is doing the work. Jesus has returned to heaven. He left us His Spirit so that the Spirit would change us as a gift. That’s why we’re trusting only in the gift only --- not in our own stuff --- by the power of the Holy Spirit only. And that’s the part that people don’t do. They jump on the legalism after they become believers.

Now legalism --- let me explain what I mean by that. There are two types of legalism. There’s salvation legalism and then (our other word) sanctification legalism. Salvation legalism: honest to goodness, verifiable heresy. That type of legalism says that you become a child of God by working and working and working, and then God might like you, and then He might receive you, we’ll see, you won’t know until the end. It’s not a gift, or it’s a gift with something on top



of that. That's a legalistic view of salvation. That's wrong. God's not the hero in that story. He doesn't get the glory.

But there's also a legalism in sanctification. Sanctification says, *Oh, this is awesome, I've been adopted. But to become a perfect child? That's back on me. I'm His, now I've got to try and try and try and try. It's a gift, plus works.* And you know what Paul says to that? "You foolish Galatians! Did someone cast a spell on you?" At what point did you ever think that would work? Where has it ever worked?

And this is where many churches throughout history and right here today --- that's what they do. They get you to work. Now, just to be clear about this, let me tell you what legalism is not. Legalism is not the presence of the law. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Old Testament of all the psalms, and the whole chapter is going on and on and on about all the great things that the law brings to us. It's a good thing that God gave us the law, and I love the law. We prayed that the children today would fall in love with the law of God. It's a good thing!

It can't change a soul. That's all. It just doesn't have the power to do that. It never did.

Legalism is not imposing law on someone else --- a friend, a family, a stranger. How about this? *Stay in your lane, bro.* That's not legalism. That's a good way to stay alive.

So, legalism is this. Legalism is an attitude toward doing good. It's an attitude towards the law. Here's a great word: it is hope. It's putting hope in that. If I do things so God would like me, or maybe do these things so that I'll look good and other people will like me, but I'm hoping that I can change through the wall. That is legalism in the context of sanctification. The way God made you a child of God is the way that He's going to make you a perfect child of God. It will be by grace because that's the only thing that can change you. It has to be a miracle story. It has to be a perpetual story of the Holy Spirit invading your life because you realize it's the only thing that can change these inner dramas, things like vanity or coveting or pride. Your story is supposed to be a God story, not just your birth, but your whole life.

And Paul --- watch this --- Paul is going to use three experiences that this audience knows all too well to prove this point. And the point is that the way He makes you as a child is the way He's going to make you a perfect child --- by grace through faith in the Spirit and Jesus.

Look what he says. He does his own experience. Chapter 3, verse 1 --- we read it earlier. "You foolish Galatians! Who bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?" I mean, you saw that already.

They didn't literally see Jesus crucified. They saw Paul's life living the crucified life. That's what he's referring to. Paul says, *Do you remember when I came to town? Did I look like the old rabbi you used to know? Heavy-laden by all the rules? No. You saw freedom. You saw what happens when grace transforms. You saw the power of trusting in the gift of salvation, Jesus, and the power of the Spirit to change me. You saw me crucified, that legalist, that crazy rule-keeping Paul was dead. You saw that in me. Come on. You saw the joy in my life. It's a God story.*

In Paul's story, God is the hero. In Paul's story, God gets the glory. That's how he leads. That's his first sentence.

Then he goes to them and says, *Your own story, it started out good, but then you guys wrecked it.* He says, "Here's the only thing I want to find out from you guys. Did you receive the Spirit through works of the law, or by hearing with faith? You know that. So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by works of the law, or by hearing with faith?" He's just recalling their own story --- not just conversion, but how they were having radical changes in their lives. Their selfishness was becoming selflessness. *Tell me about that. Was that like a program that you went through? What did you do to get there? It was a miracle. God's Spirit was working miracles among you. Who was the hero of your story? God. Who got the glory in your story? God. Then why did you switch tracks? Why did you go to this other model?*

### **Galatians 3:6**

**Even so, Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.**

Finally, he goes to the author of salvation faith and of sanctification faith, and that's Abraham. So he goes to Abraham. "Even Abraham believed God, and at that moment it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Here's a man who defined faith. Abraham, seventy-five years old, his wife way past childbirth, he's probably past childbirth, and God says, "I promise you a gift --- a son." And Abraham said, "You know what? I believe that." He believed in the gift of a miracle baby. And the Bible says at that second, he was pronounced, reckoned to him, as righteous. He was justified

that very second. Did he have the baby? No, he did not. Did he have the baby because he worked hard at it? He did not.

Ten years go by and still no baby. God shows up again and says, “Hey, Abraham. What’s up?” And he says, “Yeah, I know. What’s up?” And He says, “I promised you a baby,” and Abraham believed. Here’s faith: faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. *I don’t see a baby, but I believe one is coming.* You’re the father of faith.

Twenty-four years after the promise God visits him and again and Abraham says, “I don’t have it, but I believe it.”

The reason, I think, that God started with a seventy-five-year old and ended with a ninety-year-old is so that everyone in the 4,000 years in between will be talking about the miracle baby. This is a guy that just tried harder, saw fertility specialists, whatever, whatever, whatever --- this was a gift from God. He believed in that gift and that was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Who’s the hero of that story? God is. Who gets the glory of the whole story of Israel, not just that man, but the nation, even today? God’s the hero of that story. God gets the glory. Nobody’s getting a piece of that trophy. It’s all His.

It is by a gift alone that you become a child of God. It is by grace alone that you become a perfect child of God. So here --- all of this is leading up to this sentence. Are you ready? Brace yourself. Here we go. “And so, are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” You started with a God thing and now it’s going to be a you thing. Did you just do that? Legalism is where you put your hope. Are you hoping that you’ll just become better? God is the hero of salvation. God is the hero of sanctification. It’s the glory to God Almighty. That’s who makes us and that’s who changes us. In writing, here it is: It is a gift alone that you become a child of God --- God’s the hero of that story. It is by grace alone that you become a perfect child of God.

So, you might need to repent of being like a foolish Galatian. *Yeah, I believe in grace to become a Christian, but I’ve been working, slaving.*

## What Sanctification by Grace Looks Like

What does it look like? In other words, what does it look like to live by faith in sanctification? How do I do this regularly?

Here's a way of looking at life. It's like, where do you put your hope? That's legalism ... or not. A hammer is a good example. A hammer is a tool. Does a hammer drive a nail? No, it does not. A carpenter drives a nail and the hammer is in his hand. Now listen --- don't get me wrong. The hammer is the primary means that the carpenter has chosen to drive nails. But I've seen carpenters drive nails with rocks and drills and wrenches. So, it's not the hammer. It's how good the carpenter is. My hope is in the carpenter, not in the tool.

Now I'm going to make a jump here. Bible study is a great hammer --- it's a great tool. The Bible, we learned a few weeks ago, is the primary means that the Father has chosen that the Spirit is going to use to make us like Christ. But it can't change us. It doesn't have the power to change us. It never could. You can study the law --- do that. Go to Bible studies, absolutely. Memorize as many chapters as you can. That would be very good for you. But it cannot change your soul. It's just a tool. Don't put faith in the tool. Put faith in the carpenter. That's how this works.

Martin Lloyd-Jones said this. He's an old saint. He said, "I spent half my time telling people to study doctrine. And then the other half of my time I'm telling people doctrine is not enough!" Because doctrine can't change you. It can be looked as an act of works or flesh or whatever it might be.

Look, the men who framed Jesus Christ and led the chant "Crucify him! Crucify him!" --- they were all Bible scholars. If it could change a heart or soul, they would have done that. What God began in the Spirit are you now perfecting in Bible study? You foolish Galatians.

Here's another way of looking at it. Here's a little more concrete example. I'm going to say, "Don't be Biff." Names are changing to protect me from getting in trouble. So, a friend of mine had to confront Biff on his pride. Oh, my goodness, you couldn't go to restaurant with this guy without him ... mmm. Anyway, so my friend confronted him about his pride and said, "We've got to do something because this is significant. We can't put up with it anymore."

And so this is Biff's response to my friend. He's going to deal with his pride. I want you to listen to where his hope is and who it's in. "Since we had our meeting, I have doubled down

on working on becoming the man God wants me to be. I always take my friends' advice seriously and I consider you my friend. I've asked my friend Wally to hold me accountable. I've placed myself under Wally's authority and under the authority of my church home. I continue to spend a half an hour to an hour every morning in a quiet time and praying before the Lord. I just want you to know that I'm doing all I can to improve. I would love to update you on the specifics at some time in the future."

When I read that, my heart went right through my shoes. I thought, "Oh no, you foolish Galatian." Right? I mean, look what he did --- truth plus relationship plus work harder. And that will work if you're working on your tennis swing. But that cannot change a soul. It never could. It was never meant to.

You can't change a proud heart by working on it. You can't become less vain by holding someone accountable. The hope in this is in himself and his diligence. I tell you where it's not. It's not in a miracle and it's not in a sense of desperation.

So how do you do it? It's like this. If God is going to use the same way to make you a child as he does to make you a perfect child, let's look at your past. How did you become a child? You repented. You repented of what? You repented that you were trying to earn your way to heaven. You repented of trying to be good enough. You repented that you thought His gift wasn't sufficient. You repented of being on the wrong path. And then you have this miraculous event. You received the gift of salvation --- faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone.

When you shift to sanctification, you do the same thing. You repent of being on the wrong road. I've been a foolish Galatian. I started by faith and now I'm trying to perfect with all this stuff. And now it is faith alone, grace alone, but now it's in the Spirit alone. It's putting hope in the right place. And if you put hope in the right place, you get to live a great story. God wants you to live an amazing story, a salvation story that goes like this. Jesus Christ, the king of all heaven, chose to leave His robe and His ring and His shoes and disguise Himself as a man so that He could pay a debt that you can't afford to pay. You couldn't pay it, so He did. And if you believe in that and that was sufficient, it's declared that you are righteous.

And now, to make you his perfect child, you say the same thing. You say, *God, I'm just using these tools like Bible study and friendships of virtue. But I'm opening up my soul and I'm saying that it's way too broken for three-day-a-week Bible studies. No Greek word is going to save this boy. I won't be made perfect unless Your Spirit intervenes.*

Because here's what I want you to leave with today because of the Bible passage. The power of the Spirit for salvation is the same as the power of the Spirit in sanctification. The hero in salvation --- Jesus Christ. The hero in sanctification --- The Holy Spirit. God gets the glory because He is the hero. That's the secret. And it's not supposed to be.

What I would like to propose now is ---- well, we'll have a song, and at the end of the song, if we could have our prayer counselors come up during the end of that song. But after the whole thing is over, maybe you'd like to come down and have someone pray for you. Or maybe you just need to repent. You can just go to someone and say, "I'm Matt and I'm a foolish Galatian." "Hi, Matt." And I realized I've been on this stupid path. I received the grace of salvation but I won't receive the grace of sanctification. And I realize it was for other reasons. So maybe you need someone to just look in your eyes and say, "All right, but not anymore." We're going to make that available to you, okay?"

Let me close this section of our time in a word of prayer and then we're going to move on to our Christmas festivities. Join me.

*Lord, I bet there are few people in here who have thought that going to mass or experiencing communion or doing good things, the next good thing --- I think there are people here who thought that is what would get them into your presence without guilt. And I pray that your Spirit would cut them to the quick with truth; that it is only by trusting in your gift through Jesus Christ. And I pray that this would be the day that they changed who they belong to and they give You glory and it would be a God story.*

*And there are people here, Lord --- I know there are a lot that are like this --- that what they began in the Spirit, they are trying to perfect in the flesh. They're trying to perfect with Bible studies or service or whatever it might be. And Lord, I'd ask that You would help us repent of that, that we've been foolish Galatians and we're not giving You what is owed, and that is glory --- hero status. And so, we repent of that.*

*Lord, would you help us be a church that does this --- a whole church that's always pushing out there, only grace transforms for salvation and for sanctification. Let us be a church that teaches the truth of who we celebrate. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*