



GALATIANS

STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 4:21-31

KEY POINTS

- 1. Allegory of Hagar and Sarah:**
 - In this passage, Paul uses an allegory involving two women, Hagar and Sarah, to illustrate deeper spiritual truths. Hagar represents the covenant from Mount Sinai, which symbolizes slavery and bondage to the law. Sarah represents the Jerusalem above, which symbolizes freedom and grace through faith in Christ.
- 2. Children of the Promise:**
 - Paul emphasizes that Christians are children of the promise, just as Isaac was. This promise represents God's covenant of grace, which is received through faith and not by human effort or adherence to the law.
- 3. Freedom vs. Slavery:**
 - The primary contrast in this passage is between freedom in Christ and slavery under the law.

SCRIPTURE

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. 27 For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Exposition

1. In this passage, Paul uses an allegory involving Hagar and Sarah. What do Hagar and Sarah represent, and how does this allegory relate to the Galatian believers?
2. Verse 24 mentions the two covenants: one from Mount Sinai and one from Jerusalem above. What are these covenants, and how do they differ in terms of freedom and slavery?

Themes and Theological Insights

1. What are the main themes addressed in this passage?
2. What promise is Paul referring to in verse 28, and why is it significant for believers?
3. How does being children of the promise impact the way we view our inheritance in Christ?

Application

1. How can the principles outlined in this passage be applied to modern Christian communities?
2. How can we apply the lessons from this passage to our own lives and faith journeys, particularly in understanding the significance of our freedom in Christ?
3. In what ways have you ever felt like you were under a "law" rather than experiencing the freedom in Christ?
4. How can you live as a child of the promise and experience the freedom Paul talks about in this passage?
5. Are there any specific areas in your life where you need to embrace the freedom in Christ more fully?

PRAYER PROMPTS

1. Begin your prayer by expressing gratitude for the freedom and grace we have in Christ Jesus. Thank God for the promise of salvation through faith, and for releasing us from the bondage of the law.
2. Pray for a deepening awareness of our identity as children of the promise. Ask God to help us fully embrace our status as heirs of His grace and joint-heirs with Christ.
3. Seek God's guidance in discerning any legalistic tendencies in our lives or in our communities. Pray for the wisdom to recognize when we may be relying on our own efforts rather than trusting in His grace.
4. Pray for unity and fellowship within the body of Christ. Ask God to help us recognize and affirm our shared identity as children of the promise, regardless of our backgrounds or circumstances.
5. Pray for God to transform our hearts and minds, renewing our thinking to align with His truth. Ask for the strength to walk in the freedom and grace He provides each day.