

SET FREE:
*LIVING IN
THE SPIRIT OF*
GRACE

Part 7 – Galatians 4:1-20

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF GALATIANS



Galatians 4:1–2: the Apostle Paul diagnoses a deep spiritual problem within the Galatian church—**spiritual immaturity**.

- Though they were heirs of God with full access to His promises, they were living like children still under guardianship.
- Paul’s plea is simple yet profound: **GROW UP!**

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Paul begins Galatians 4 by comparing believers who live under the law to **children**—immature, undeveloped, and unable to access their inheritance.

Though they are heirs, they remain under guardians and stewards until the appointed time.

**This imagery reveals a painful truth:
immaturity limits access.**

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Galatians 4:1–2 teaches that:

- We are heirs of God.
- We have a divine inheritance.
- Yet immaturity can keep us from walking in the fullness of what God has given.



UNDERSTANDING THE LAW AND GRACE

The Law

Spiritually, the law represents God's righteous standard—but it cannot save, transform, or empower.

It reveals sin but cannot remove it.



Grace

Grace is the **free gift** and unearned favor of God. It is not wages or reward—it is God's love expressed toward undeserving humanity.

The greatest expression of grace is **salvation**.

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IDENTITY THROUGH CHRIST: FROM CHILDREN TO SONS

Through the finished work of Christ, we receive a new identity.

Galatians 4:5–6 reveals four truths:

- **We are sons and daughters of God.**
- **We have an inheritance.**
- **We relate directly to the Father.**
- **We are no longer under the supervision of the law.**

The Spirit of God within us cries, “Abba, Father!” This is the cry of *intimacy, maturity, and identity.*

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GROWTH BY GRACE VS. GROWTH BY THE LAW

Growth by Grace	Growth by the Law
Product of faith and love	Product of rules and regulations
Produced by the Spirit	Produced by the flesh
Rooted in Christ's finished work	Rooted in performance
Leads to Christlike nature	Leads to self-righteousness
Transforms the mind	Conforms to culture and tradition

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PAUL'S PASTORAL PLEA FOR MATURITY

Galatians 4:12–20

1. Paul Appeals as Family (v. 12)

“Become like me, for I became like you.”

2. Paul Reminds Them of Their Love (vv. 13–15)

They once received him with honour and affection.



PAUL'S PASTORAL PLEA FOR MATURITY

Galatians 4:12–20

3. Paul Confronts Their Change of Heart (v. 16)

“Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”

Immaturity resists correction; maturity embraces it.

4. Paul Exposes False Teachers (vv. 17–18)

Legalism manipulates and controls.

True leadership builds and liberates.



PAUL'S PASTORAL PLEA FOR MATURITY

Galatians 4:12–20

5. Paul's Fatherly Pain (v. 19)

“My little children... until Christ is formed in you.”

This is the heart of spiritual maturity: **Christ formed in us.**

6. Paul's Desire for Restoration (v. 20)

He longs to be present with them and guide them back to maturity.



CONCLUSION:

When we understand sonship in this way—

- participation,
- co-labouring,
- reconciliation,
- empowerment, and
- stewardship—

our walk with God moves beyond infancy into maturity.

WE NO LONGER LIVE AS CHILDREN WHO MUST BE SUPERVISED,
BUT AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO CARRY
THE FATHER'S HEART, THE FATHER'S BURDEN, AND THE FATHER'S MISSION.

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Paul's message to the Galatians is God's message
to us today:

GROW UP!

Not through legalism, but through grace
and the Spirit's work.

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The call is clear: Step out of spiritual childhood and into mature sonship. The inheritance, the assignment, and the blessing await those who grow.

- ***I Will Grow into your identity.***
- ***I Will Grow into your inheritance.***
- ***I Will Grow into your assignment.***
- ***I Will Grow into generosity.***
- ***I Will Grow into Christlikeness.***



THE LIVE STREAM

***IS NOW
FINISHING***

SEE YOU NEXT TIME



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