

**SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians) x****SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD****Scripture: Galatians 3:19-22****Monday, 11/02/20****TITLE: Give Up to Grow Up**

Have you ever been told just to give up? As a coach I tell my kids and even clients at times, "Don't give up." When they are aiming for a goal, we know it's going to be hard. There are going to be challenges. So, what do we say? "Don't give up." Now, most often this is great advice. Don't give up. Keep going. Keep reaching for your goal.

But there is one area of life, that in order to succeed, we have to give up. And that is in the area of legalism. Listen to what the Apostle Paul had to say about giving up in Galatians 3:19-22:

19 Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

20 Now an intermediary implies more than one, but God is one.

21 Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

The Apostle Paul said in verse 21, "if the law could give us new life." In other words, if the law could give us salvation then we could be made right with God by obeying it. But the scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.

So many people today are on a spiritual journey, but it's like the running on a treadmill and never going anywhere. They've been told you just have to try harder to please God. You just have to say one more prayer to experience peace. You just have to give a little bit more money to see a change in the relationship. Just go to one more church service and you'll feel closer to God.

That's the problem of legalism. And that's the problem of religion. The world tells us what we should *do* to experience salvation, peace with God, or some other spiritual result. But that's not what the Bible says. We know that to experience true peace with God --in order to progress down our spiritual journey with Him -- we have to give up. We need to quit trying to play the game of religion. We need to quit looking for human solutions to spiritual problems.

If today you are struggling with feeling inadequate and a failure in your relationship with God, then you need to give up doing it in your own power.

The Apostle Paul says we are prisoners of sin and we cannot break those chains. Only God can do it. God promises freedom through believing in Jesus Christ. We have to give up to grow up in God.

Whatever it is you're struggling with today, it's time to stop playing the game. It's time to give up trying harder. It's time to rest in God's grace and allow Him to bring you the peace you desire and the change you long for.