



## Was It By Faith, Or By Works?

Galatians 3:1-9

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We should believe that justification is by faith alone,  
because it is confirmed by our experience and Abraham's example.

### Definitions

**Justification** is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Jesus' righteousness as belonging to us, and so (2) declares us to be righteous/not guilty before Him. (Wayne Grudem)

**Legalism** is any attempt to gain acceptance or forgiveness from God through own efforts or merits.

**Sanctification** is the process where a believer progressively become what they have already been declared to be in the court of heaven—righteous. In other words, sanctification is the progressive life long process of a believer becoming more like Jesus in their daily life.

1. **We should believe justification is by faith alone, because It is confirmed by our experience. (vv. 1-5)**

2. **We should believe justification is by faith alone, because It is confirmed by Abraham's example. (vv. 6-9)**

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What are the answers to Paul's questions in verses 1-5?
2. What are some evidences of the Spirit's activity in a believer's life? How about your life?
3. How can you, like the Galatians, effectively reject your experience of justification by faith through the Spirit's activity, and decide to supplement your faith with efforts?
4. Can God's legal declaration of justification ("not guilty") ever be reversed?
5. Why is it good news for believers that God's legal declaration never be reversed?
6. Sanctification always comes *after* justification, never before. What would it mean if justification came after?
7. In verse 8, with the phrase, "...the Scripture, foreseeing...", Scripture is personified, so that what Scripture says is what God himself says. Why is that a big deal?