

Hello! This is Dorothy -

You know, it is impossible to mix or reconcile Grace and the Law or works and faith. You cannot mix these things together; it is like two separate entities altogether. In **Genesis 21:10**, we read that God confirmed that Abraham should follow Sarah's desire. **Therefore she said to Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman -that was Hagar - and her son -that was Ishmael - for the son of this bondwoman shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.** Two sons and their mothers could not dwell in the same household. Ishmael, now around seventeen years of age, would mock and corrupt Isaac, this little fellow, the true heir of the Abrahamic promises, so a drastic break was essential.

Oh, the Judiazers prided themselves in being the physical seed of Abraham and partakers of the Mosaic Law. So, Paul, in writing the **Epistle to the Galatians**, used their background to contrast the differences between Law and Grace. In other words, he took from the Old Testament this amazing story about the casting out of this bondwoman and her son. In **chapter 4 of Galatians**, we read —

30 . . . Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman.

21 Tell me, you that desire to be under the law, do you not

hear the law? The Apostle Paul was saying, “Do you really want what the Law says? Possibly you have not studied its principles or given heed to all of its laws and commands. Do we want to be sons of Ishmael, who was conceived after the flesh, whose mother was a slave, who lives in the bondage of earthly Jerusalem and who was not under the covenant? Oh, don’t you understand? Do you really want to be bound the way you are as to what to do and what not to do?” Believers have been liberated by grace through Jesus Christ. They are being asked if they want to be sons of Isaac. Isaac was conceived through supernatural intervention. His mother was free. They are positioned in the heavenly Jerusalem under the new covenant. This is grace. Oh, what a difference in being under the bondage of Law and under the total freedom of grace. In other words, by holding onto the Law, they were acting as sons born in bondage and, therefore, disqualifying themselves from being heirs of the covenant promises. You see, when the Apostle Paul was writing in **Galatians**, he was trying to show you are in the same bondage. Be free in Christ Jesus! The bondswoman was after the flesh, whereas Isaac was conceived by Sarah, the free woman by promise. After the flesh or by promise. Which one will you choose?

In **Galatians 4-**

28 But we, brethren, are children [not by physical descent, as was Ishmael, but] like Isaac, born in virtue of promise.

29 Yet [just] at that time the child [of ordinary birth] born according to the flesh despised and persecuted him [who was born remarkably] according to [the promise and the working of] the [Holy] Spirit, so it is now also. You know, we really find that the flesh does not mix with the Spirit. As believers, when we are in the Spirit worshiping and working together according to the plan of God, when there are those who will bring in the flesh, who will legalize, who will take control, who will dominate and try to work for God instead of letting God work through them, there is always friction. There is always division and the work of the Spirit of God is hindered. Isaac was born both naturally and by supernatural, miraculous intervention, because Abraham and Sarah were past the age of child bearing, we are told. This meant that Ishmael, by birth, had no share in the inheritance of the covenant promises of Abraham. But Isaac, the true heir by birth, had a right to the covenant promise.

You see, in Jesus Christ, by grace I can inherit all, all in Him. Do you understand that the believer's life is not meant to be like a glorified copying of Jesus? The believer's life is a vessel that has been miraculously transplanted from the kingdom of darkness and put into the kingdom of light. We have received of God, the Holy Spirit, that He might glorify Jesus Christ through us. He has a plan; He works the seconds of the day out; and it is His working through us that gives the freedom. We aren't having to work at something to bring this to pass,

or try to work ourselves up by shouting a lot in some chorus thinking this is all going to happen to change my life. No. It is by saying, **Not I but Christ** alone exalted. **Not I, but Christ** be seen, be known, be heard.

Oh, may Jesus take over today every part of your life, if you are a believer. May it no longer be you struggling, trying to be and to do. May you be very conscious that in Jesus alone is all in all. He is the life and He will be glorified if you say, *Not I, but You, Lord Jesus.*

Amen.

