

## Role of law and faith

The epistle to the Galatians is a letter based on controversy at the time between the Gentile Christians and the Law of Moses. This devotional concentrates on Galatians Chapter 3. The distinction between people of faith in this passage (Believers of Christ), and Gentiles is being frowned upon by Paul. Gentiles were people who weren't Jewish (who didn't follow the Law of Moses). Jesus didn't distinguish between Gentiles and Jews; he died on the cross for his children. Children stood for any person who had the faith to believe in him and his teachings. These children understood his way of life and practiced it.

Jesus pointed out multiple times to the Pharisees and his teachings, that some of the laws weren't supposed to be upheld the way they were being upheld during that time.

- Sabbath and the healings.
- The stoning of the fallen woman

How does this passage and the law relate to us in present times?

Following the law is not a way to gain favor with God. Law of each state/country/church is to govern us to be a better human being, to gain a peaceful co-existence with people of different thoughts, ideas and customs. We need to respect it and shape our paths within the guidelines.

Is that enough to gain the spirit? No, it's not.

Living within the boundaries of the law wouldn't make us Christians. Following just the law alone with zero or less faith is a curse. We inherit the law based on where we are born, where we stay and where we belong. Faith is not something that can be inherited in such a manner, it needs to be built.

Galatians 3:2 says *"This only I wish to know of you: Did you receive The Spirit by the works of The Written Law or by the hearing of faith?"*

During this period of lent, as we explain lent or Christ on the cross, we might be tempted to cross-examine other denominations of followers of Christ and their customs/laws and practices. But as people who share the same faith that Christ died on the cross for our sins. There is no other distinction save one – we are bound by the same faith and that makes us Christians (followers of Christ).

Galatians 3:28 says *"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

We must observe the lent as a period to meditate and strengthen our faith. Based on the faith that Christ died on the cross for our sins we can receive the Holy Spirit.

With the combination of this spirit and the faith that can move mountains, we can understand the ultimate purpose of our presence in this world. Let us pray that each of us find the need and determination in us to go in search of this faith.