



Breaking the Spell Galatians 3:1-6

Control—we are all familiar with this topic. Our passage this week looks at the effect control can have in the way believers interact with God. Too often, we can begin strong, have good intentions, and then gradually drift off course on our paths toward Christ-likeness. Too often, we fall back into the ruts of attempting to control everything in our lives. Before long, we are relying on ourselves entirely. That’s the bad news. The good news is God has other plans in mind for us. He is the never-ending initiator in our relationship. We just need to run toward Him and follow His lead. He will take care of us.

Getting Started

Oswald Chambers is known for his insightful observations and penetrating exhortations. Read the single sentence below and discuss your answers to the following questions.

The thing that ought to make the heart beat is a new way of manifesting the Son of God.

What do you think Chambers is really saying?
Does this make your heart beat in a new way?

How can we manifest the Son of God?
What does make your heart beat in a new way?

We can fall under the spell of believing that we can earn God’s blessing. 3:1

The deception of this world is that we can control life.

The reality of Christ crucified reminds us that there is . . .

1. a new life given by grace.
2. a new power at work in our lives.
3. a new goal for our lives.
4. a new way of doing life.

We need to learn to think about why we do what we do.

Let’s review: What have we studied in the first two chapters of Galatians? What are the major themes?	How were the Galatians being led astray?
How does this passage fit into Paul’s letter?	How do good motives fail us in these situations?
Why were they so easily confused?	What spell are you currently under?
What kind of spells do we face today?	
Why does it seem easier to control things ourselves than allow God to control them?	

Thinking through a series of questions can break that spell . . . vv. 2-5

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| Did we receive the Spirit through our own efforts? | v. 2 |
| Do we try to gain “life” through our own efforts? | v. 3 |
| Has God done amazing things in our lives for no reason? | v. 4 |
| Is the reality of God’s work in our lives based upon our own efforts? | v. 5 |

What is Paul reminding the Galatians of via his questions?	How do our efforts affect our relationship with God?
When do you see God at work in your life?	How does God choose to interact with us?
How easy is it for you to be introspective?	How successful are you in reflecting on your life?
What can you do to enhance your spiritual discernment?	What relationships or routines can help you?

Faith has always been the standard for relationship with God. v. 6

Why does Paul talk about Abraham?	How does Abraham strengthen Paul’s argument?
What was the basis of Abraham’s justification?	How does our faith in God’s promises save us?

Application

Give everyone a moment to decide on a study-based application.

What part of the study got you thinking most?	How have you heard God this week?
With what will you relinquish control to God this week?	How will work on self-examination this week?

Prayer

Pray for those who are not plugged in and connected yet at TCBC. Ask God to give you discernment and insight into how you can reach out to and welcome people into your life. Praise God for being in control of our lives.