

# The Never Ending Promise

Galatians 4:21-31

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**Big Idea:** God's love for us is the source of the Good News from beginning to end.

*Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup>But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup>Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." <sup>28</sup>Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup>But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." <sup>31</sup>So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Galatians 4:21-31 (English Standard Version)*

**Our freedom in Christ is by promise from the beginning of salvation history to the end.**

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*. . . "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." Galatians 4:27 (ESV)*

**TIP:** Two Chairs

## Trying to earn the Good News has negative implications.

*Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup>But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. <sup>30</sup>But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." <sup>31</sup>So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.*

Galatians 4:28-31 (ESV)

"At some point in my 30's, I realized that expectations, merely perceived and clearly proclaimed rules, were a significant part of my Christian experience. I also became aware that these boundaries, these rules, had themselves become my relationship with God. That is, my ability to keep the rules became the measure by which I judged the depth of my devotion to God and others' salvation. These expectations and rules were the reason I kept coming back to church (even when I didn't want to go anymore) because I was afraid what people would say if I left. Sadly, they are also the reason I cannot find my way back to God. Occasionally, for a brief moment, I imagine a relationship with my Creator that is free. The vision is an overwhelmingly beautiful, but fleeting thought. It's gone just as my mind begins to grasp what could be. I have been told so many times that a holy God cannot see me, love me, in my fallenness . . . I wonder if I am still incapable of seeing God, peering into the clarity of unfettered love."  
(A friend of Tony's)

### TIPS:

- Do "nothing" with God
- Father's like to share in their children's joy
- Living as brethren in the promise
- Free people free people