

Empowered By The Spirit: Protecting Our Freedom

Acts 15:1-35

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As the early Church blossomed, a spiritual attack was launched. Pharisees who had become Jesus' followers attempted to re-introduce the Law of Moses as necessary for salvation. They wanted to impose legalistic restrictions on new Gentile believers. Unfortunately, legalism still poisons the Church today. Can anything be done to stop it?

The
Next
Step

*Live under **grace!***

Legalism teaches that salvation comes by "grace plus"

God's Word teaches salvation by **grace** alone
through **faith** alone in **Jesus** alone!

Ephesians 2:8-9

Two principles for grace-only living:

- Do not restrict others with **non-biblical** requirements.
Acts 15:1-3
- Gladly restrict your **freedom** for the sake of others.
Acts 15:19-21; 1 Corinthians 9:19-21

"For though I am free from all,

I have made myself a servant to all,

that I might win more of them."

~ Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:19

By now you have discovered that all roads do not lead to God, and life is not as simple as you once thought. For those who are at this crossroad, the Bible offers a new direction, one filled with purpose, fulfillment, and acceptance. The steps are simple:

1. Recognize that you're a sinner.

You must admit your spiritual need. "There is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others for our actions. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23).

2. Recognize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus paid the price for your sin. The apostle Paul said, "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20).

3. Repent of your sins.

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God.

4. Accept Jesus as your Savior.

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). It is essential to come to Jesus just as you are. Don't try to "clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead, receive Him and allow Him to do the "cleansing." Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, And the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." (John 6:37).

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