

FAITH VERSUS WORKS-A Biblical Illustration

1. The historical facts 4:21-23

Hagar and Ishmael

Sarah and Isaac

2. The allegorical interpretation 4:24-27

Hagar represents the covenant of law and works.

Sarah represents the covenant of grace and faith.

3. The personal application 4:28-31

a. Fact # 1-The contrast of spiritual origin 4:28

Believers in Christ are children of promise like Isaac.

b. Fact # 2-The contrast in spiritual nature 4:29

Ishmael, the son born according to the flesh, persecuted Isaac, the son born by the power of the Spirit.

c. Fact # 3-The contrast in spiritual destiny 4:30

Ishmael was cast out, but Isaac alone was the heir.

The believer in Christ is the heir of salvation and not the legalist.

d. Fact # 4-The contrast in spiritual state 4:31

Believers are the children of the free woman.

Questions for discussion

1. How might you communicate that salvation is only by grace through faith and not by works? Use Galatians 4:21-31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:20; John 3:16
2. What do you think contributes to the false idea that works are essential for salvation? What is the proper place for works in the life of the believer?
3. In your witnessing how have people communicated to you that they are trusting in their good works in order to go to heaven?