

GALATIANS 4:1-20

Pray. Tell the Father that you want to do this Bible study by FAITH. Tell Him that by FAITH you are counting on the Spirit for insight and for change.

*We open our sails into the wind of Your Spirit. Take us, dear God,  
to those places we need to go, where your blessing awaits.  
Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

*Prayer by Dr. John Claypool*

Review your memory verses - Galatians 1:3-5; 2:15-16 and 2:20. Yes \_\_\_\_.

1. Tell *when* you remembered and *how* you used one of these passages this week. (Maybe it encouraged you or challenged you or redirected your thoughts or actions. If we're meditating on the Word, we'll find those tailor-made times when it applies. That's why we memorize!)

Read Galatians 4:1-20.

Paul begins by re-emphasizing the contrast between man's condition under the law and his condition when he is in Christ. His reasoning proceeds from his points in Galatians 3:23 and following. God's people were like children with the law as their child-conductor leading them to Christ. One way this happens is when we try hard to keep the rules, we fail eventually, and then we see how much we need God and His help. Thus the law conducts us to faith. At this point we graduate from children under a tutor and *all* become adult sons of the Father and heirs of God's promised inheritance.

Re-read Galatians 4:1-3.

2. Describe the relationship a child has with his guardian. (Use verses 1 and 2 and also any suitable analogy you can think of from life.)

3. What is Paul's point in these verses?

Read again Galatians 4:1-7.

4. Verse 4 begins with a connecting word that shows contrast. What contrasts do you see as you go back to verse 1?

The way we were

The way we are

5. When and how was this transformation accomplished?
  
6. Which "way" (question 4) sounds most appealing and why?

Read again Galatians 4:8-11.

7. What are the Galatians doing that causes Paul to fear?
  
8. How would you describe what they are doing? (Example - wise or foolish?)
  
9. From verse 9 *what* is the goal of the whole redemptive process (it isn't just freedom!) and *how* is this goal realized? (Galatians 3:23-4:11)
  
10. If you have discovered that you can *actually* and *intimately* KNOW GOD, what difference will this discovery make in the areas listed below? Choose 3 to comment on.
  - a. The way you parent your preschoolers or teenagers
  
  - b. The way you read the Bible and pray
  
  - c. The way you view growing older
  
  - d. The way you face disappointments and difficulties
  
  - e. The way you talk to the clerk in the store or to your doctor
  
  - f. The way you shop



## I Am Thine, O Lord

**Text:** Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

**Music:** William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,  
and it told thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.
- Refrain:  
Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.
2. Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord.  
by the power of grace divine;  
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
and my will be lost in thine.  
(Refrain)
3. O the pure delight of a single hour  
that before thy throne I spend,  
when I kneel in prayer, and with  
thee my God,  
I commune as friend to friend!  
(Refrain)
4. There are depths of love that I  
cannot know till I cross the narrow  
sea;  
There are heights of joy that I  
may not reach  
till I rest in peace with thee.  
(Refrain)

“As the author of more than 9000 hymns plus 1000 secular poems and songs, hymn writer Francis Jane (Fanny) Crosby was one of the most beloved Christian figures in the late 1800s. While providing many of the appealing gospel hymns that would replace the formerly popular more staid and sober songs, she also gained renown as a preacher, lecturer and home mission worker. And she accomplished it all despite being blind since infancy. Still, Fanny never allowed what could have been a seriously limiting handicap caused by a careless mistake to keep her from using her God-given talent to create songs that would provide inspiration and encouragement to many.” (Anne Adams)

Fanny is said to have stated that she was glad she was blind, because the first face she would see would be that of Jesus whom she loved.

Fanny’s father died when she was a child and her young mother became a maid to support the family. Fanny spent much time with her grandmother who helped her learn independence by teaching her about the world and by having her memorize many parts of Scripture. Some other songs Fanny Crosby wrote include: *Safe in the Arms of Jesus*, *Rescue the Perishing*, *Blessed Assurance*, *Pass Me Not*, *O Gentle Saviour*, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home*, *Praise Him*, *Praise Him* and *To God by the Glory*.

Carolyn Roper (original 1999; revised 2012)