



In hoc signo vinces



**Emperor Constantine I – vision – in THIS SIGN, conquer
313 AD – Edict of Milan – granted amnesty to Christians across the
Empire
325 – Convened the Council of Nicea – refuted the heresy of Arianism**



But Wait, There IS MORE

- ¹⁴ Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ **who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.** ¹⁶ **For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized [e]in the name of the Lord Jesus.** ¹⁷ Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.



What is the Biggest Miracle?

The Holy Spirit will give
you the ability to tell
what *you have*
experienced - with
miraculous results!!!!



And So it Goes

- Romans organized the Church – eventually focus was ON the Church
- Stay in right relationship with the Church and the Church will take care of the rest
- 1517 Martin Luther triggered the Reformation
- Stay in right relationship with Jesus through Right Doctrine; i.e. “right doctrine and theology = right relationship”
- Fractured one misguided Church into hundreds of misguided churches



Back to the Samaritans

- Why was it so important for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit?
- After all, they had taken the correct actions and they had their doctrine and theology straight. They had done the RIGHT things!
- They still lacked a RELATIONSHIP with the source of LIFE
- If you have right doctrine without LIFE-giving relationship, what does that make you?
- A Pharisee!



1 Corinthians 1

¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

¹³ [h]Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized [i]in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ [j]I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized [k]in my name. ¹⁶ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in [l]cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.



Law or LIFE?

- ⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, **but our adequacy is from God,** ⁶ who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, **but the Spirit gives life.**
- ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**



Relationship = Peace and Freedom

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY