

St. Paul to the Galatians 3: 7-14

Luke. 11: 15-26

‘Faith’ seems to me to be the key word for today. An active faith that is constant and seeks understanding and growth. Paul says, “It is those who rely on faith who are the sons of Abraham.” And, “Those who rely on Faith receive the same blessing as Abraham, the man of Faith.” “Since scripture says, ‘cursed be everyone who does not **persevere** in everything prescribed by the law’.” “The righteous man finds life through faith... The man who **practises** these precepts finds life.” Practise and perseverance are important. “Christ (who lived by faith) died on the cross, so that, through faith we might receive the promised Spirit.”

Jesus, in the Gospel from St. Luke, reveals this same teaching when he states that, “So long as a strong man fully armed guards his own palace, his goods are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he is attacks and defeats him, the stronger man takes away all the weapons he relied on and shares out his spoil.” “When the unclean spirit goes out of a man and cannot find a new home, he returns and, finding it swept clean, goes off and brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and set up house there, so that the man ends up by being worse off than before.”

It is not enough to be strong; we are called to stay strong, and indeed grow stronger, in our faith.