

# Calcification

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

## Foundations of our Faith

**Ephesians 4:14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

## Analogy of Cave formations

- Stalagmites—grow up from the ground
  - Represents a reliance on self and not God
- Stalactites—hangs down from the ceiling
  - Represents a legalist spirit

## Stalagmite Babel Builders

**Genesis 1:28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...”

**Genesis 9:1** And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

**Genesis 9:7** And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.”

**Genesis 11:1-9** <sup>1</sup>Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup>And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup>And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup>Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” <sup>5</sup>And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup>Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup>So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup>Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused<sup>[a]</sup> the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

## **Stalactite Pharisaical Hypocrisy**

**Matthew 23:23-24** <sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

## **Legalism is misplaced focus on rules and human effort rather than God’s grace and inner transformation**

**Matthew 12:10-13** <sup>10</sup>And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup>He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup>Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” <sup>13</sup>Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other.

**Galatians 3:2-3** <sup>2</sup>Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? <sup>3</sup>Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

**Galatians 2:4-5** <sup>4</sup>Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—<sup>5</sup>to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

## **Self-Examination Questions:**

- Do I live in the fruits of the spirit?
- Do I struggle with accepting God’s grace for my sin?
- Do I have a works-based mentality?
- Do I have a critical attitude toward others?
- Do I focus more on rules and outward standards than on my relationship with God?
- Do I weaponize the word of God?
- Do I have a bondage with religious traditions?
- Do I have an unhealthy doubting of my salvation?

**Matthew 22:34-40** <sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup>And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup>And he said to him, “You shall LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”