



# Galatians 4:3-9

<sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

Galatians 4:3-6 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir. <sup>8</sup> Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup> But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

Galatians 4:7-9 (NIV)

Elementary spiritual forces  
(4:3, 4:9)

# ΣΤΟΙΧΕΪΟΝ

Translated as "elementary spiritual forces" (NIV) or "elementary principles of the world" (ESV):

1. Elemental substances of wind, earth, fire, and water
2. Spiritual deities or powers
3. Foundational standards or principles of life

**Sources of Identity:**  
Given externally

**Sources of Identity:**

Given externally

Created internally



Adoption

<sup>4</sup> God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:28-29 (NIV)

Jesus was “<sup>4</sup> born of a woman, born under the **Law**,  
<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the **Law**...”

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

"This is my Son; I love him, with Him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

ἄββα, Father אבִּי

<sup>6</sup> Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

Galatians 4:6 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem *me* from under the Law, that *I* might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because *I am* His *son/daughter*, God sent the Spirit of His Son into *my* heart, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba, Father.*” <sup>7</sup> So *I am* no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since *I am* His child, God has made *me* also an heir.

Galatians 4:4-7 (Adapted NIV)