

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 7

Our Faith – By the Word of God: Part 2

In Part 2 of this lesson, we will learn about two critical components of faith:

- We are justified by faith.
- Faith without works is dead

Our Foundation of Faith – We are Justified by the Faith of Jesus Christ

We are justified or made righteous by the faith of Jesus Christ. We face many challenges to our faith. One of the greatest challenges is to remember the simplicity and power that we cannot earn the salvation of God. We must be justified or able to enter in. It is not our faith by which we are justified. It is the faith of Jesus Christ.

First, His faith works outside or towards us. Then, it works in us. Even after we receive Jesus Christ, we still try to prove our faithfulness to God by our actions or works. Instead, we must simply accept His faithfulness for us and then in us as completely sufficient to please God. **Galatians 2:16** *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

Jesus’ faith on the earth was not to prove himself by earthly works or even by miracles. Jesus’ faith was to glorify His Father in heaven through these works and miracles and to show the Father to the world so that we might believe. The faith of Jesus Christ was displayed towards us, who now believe, and for those in the world who are yet to believe. For those who believe, the faith of Jesus Christ is no longer towards us. Now it is in us, through His Spirit that dwells in us. The faith of Jesus Christ may now be worked through us towards others. This is not for our benefit but for the lost. We are already justified by the faith of Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:11** *“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”*

Law or Works do not Justify but Lead us to Christ

It is important to understand the relationship between the law and faith or grace and truth. Both are of the Lord and are for a specific purpose in our lives. **John 1:17** *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”* The plan of our Heavenly Father is to provide for our lives when we follow Him and His directions to us in The Word. In the Old Testament, we learn of the fall of mankind when the people would not follow the Lord. We learned about God’s great plan to restore mankind unto Himself. Sin, or disobedience to God’s Word, was shown to man when the law was given. **Romans 5:13** *“(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.”* Therefore, the purpose of the law was to reveal man’s sin so that they could know the error of their ways before God and not to justify themselves by the law. **Romans 3:20** *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

Did this mean that the purpose of the law was to reveal our sin and not give us a way to be justified to have a way back to a relationship with God? God forbid! Rather, He created a glorious plan for man to be able to obey the Word of God. **Romans 8:3-4** *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* **Galatians 3:21-26** *“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”* The plan of our Heavenly Father was to restore us to God through His Son Jesus Christ. His plan was also to give us His Faith so that we do not need to fall again. Our journey of faith is not for us to try to keep being saved. The victory of Jesus Christ in our lives is to be fully evident so that others might see it and believe.

Our Justification by His Faith – the Key to Humility

It is very powerful to be justified by the faith of Jesus Christ. At the same time, it is the key to walking in humility. John the Baptist said in **John 3:30** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* Jesus is our everything. This is so powerful that it puts an end to our questions: “Do I have enough faith? Have I done enough?” The faith of Christ Jesus towards us and in us has fully answered these questions if we simply receive and walk in His Faith. **Galatians 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* The key to walking in humility is that the faith is not from ourselves but faith is of Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 12:2** *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;”*

Any good works that we do are not of ourselves They are of Jesus Christ because He shed His blood for us. We did not conquer sin, hell, and death; nor can we heal. It is not our power or wisdom that delivers men. We are partakers with Christ Jesus in His glory and power to our benefit and now to the benefit of others. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”* We cannot boast of our abilities and accomplishments. Yet the faith of Christ Jesus in us boasts of the things of the Lord so that he may be glorified and shown to the world. **Romans 3:27** *“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”* **Psalm 34:2** *“My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.”*

Our Foundation of Faith - Faith is Shown by our Works (Actions)

We pray that it is now abundantly clear that we are justified (made clean, righteous, and able to enter in) by faith and not by our own power or works. You may think now that faith does not require any “works” or actions from us. It is more correct to say that “justification” does not require any works from us. Faith requires works of us, just as the faith of Jesus Christ required works of Him. The purpose of works of faith is so that others might believe in Him

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again from the grave. Without these works, we would not have salvation and a relationship with the Father. **James 2:20** *“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”* The faith of Jesus Christ on the earth was so that mankind would believe on Him and the Father, and that mankind would know that faith came from heaven. This has been the pattern of faith from the beginning of time. This is the plan of the Father that all men would believe through faith.

Hebrews 11 tells of the faith of those who went before us in the Old Testament. Their actions or works of faith were not to justify themselves. They were to fulfil the Word of God so we would know that His Word is true and His promises are yea and amen. **2 Corinthians 1:20** *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”* Yet it was the works of faith that were counted unto them as the righteousness of God. **Romans 4:3** *“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”* Abraham’s righteousness or faith in the Word by his work was not for Abraham’s sake alone. It was for all who would follow. **Romans 4:23-25** *“Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”* So now the same faith that was in Jesus Christ is manifest in us so that we may continue in works of faith of the Father for salvation. This salvation is not only for us but also for others.

Works of Jesus’ Faith now Through Us

What are the works of faith that are now manifest in us? We keep the Word of God so that we can be His witnesses through our actions. They show the will of our Heavenly Father in our lives. Jesus came to do the will of His Father. His faith in us is also to do the will of His Father, who is now our Heavenly Father. **John 5:30** *“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”* **Luke 22:42** *“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”*

The commandments of the Lord to us about works of faith are clear in the Word. **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* **Matthew 5:13-16** *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* **Daniel 12:3** *“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”* **Ephesians 2:10** *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

These scriptures show us there are works of faith to do today. These works are to keep the Word of God and let the Word of God dwell in us and change us. This is not so that we are “better people” or to judge others. These works of faith are so that others would have Jesus Christ and The Kingdom of Heaven revealed to them by these works. The law is no longer for us to know sin. The faith of Jesus Christ is to us so that we might know the righteousness of God through faith. This frees us from being servants of sin.

We do not labour to prove that we are righteous unto God or out of obedience or duty. Now, we labour as Jesus laboured. This is not to pay a debt for our sin because Jesus paid our debt. We don't justify ourselves by our works. We do works because we love the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. His love in us, which is from above, operates our faith and hope. Through faith, we believe and keep the Word of God. This isn't just to show that we believe in Him but so that others might believe when they see how we live our lives by faith in the Word of God. **Romans 5:1-2** *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* **Hebrews 12:1-2** *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* **1 Peter 1:9** *“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*

We are justified by faith. We are not justified by our faith but through the faith of Jesus Christ. This is a gift of God. The faith of Jesus Christ to us was not in words only but in deeds or works to us. Now that same faith is in us. It is not in words only but also in works by us, as temples of the Holy Ghost. Our own works do not justify us. Works of faith through Jesus Christ is for the salvation of souls.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Gal 3: 1-11 <i>(1) O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?</i> <i>(2) This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?</i> <i>(3) Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?</i> <i>(4) Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.</i> <i>(5) He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?</i> <i>(6) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.</i> <i>(7) Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.</i> <i>(8) And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.</i> <i>(9) So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.</i> <i>(10) For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.</i> <i>(11) But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we receive the Spirit? 2. What does man often do after receiving the Spirit by faith? 3. How is the ministering of Christ Jesus and working of miracles accomplished? 4. Was Abraham justified by works or by faith? 5. Are the children of Abraham justified by works or by faith? 6. Can we be justified by the law? 7. How then are we justified?

James 2:14-26

(14) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

(15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

(16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

(17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

(18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

(19) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

(20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

(21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

(22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

(23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

(24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

(25) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?

(26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1. Does faith require works?
2. Why is faith without works dead?
3. What was the purpose of Abraham's works?
4. What was counted unto Abraham as righteousness?
5. What is the relationship between faith and works?

ANSWER KEY

Read **Gal 3: 1-11**

1. We receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith.
2. Man often returns to the works of the flesh for justification.
3. Ministering Christ Jesus and working miracles is accomplished by faith.
4. Abraham was justified because he believed God.
5. The children of Abraham are justified by faith.
6. We cannot be justified by the law.
7. The just shall live by faith

Read **James 2: 14-26**

1. Absolutely, faith requires works.
2. Faith without works is “alone”. Faith is to have substance and evidence. If there is no evidence of faith, it is just words or philosophy
3. The purpose of Abraham’s works was to make faith perfect.
4. Abraham believed God and did as God asked
5. Works are faith in action. They show the evidence or substance of that which we believe. Faith without works does not accomplish anything. It is of no Godly benefit and is dead.

Notes: