

In our last lesson we discussed, “**Repentance from Dead Works**”. We discovered that repentance is an action word which identifies a definite course of action we are to take. We’ve learned that the Gospel requires us to turn from both our sins and man-initiated good works (dead works) and to turn toward Jesus Christ, fully trusting Him alone for our redemption and salvation.

In this lesson we will continue to explore what this ‘**faith-oriented**’ relationship to our Lord is all about.

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD, ‘FAITH’?

FAITH comes from the Greek word, ‘**pistis**’ and by definition it means to be firmly persuaded, to have an assurance and to possess a conviction.

2. WHAT IS FAITH TOWARD GOD?

The doctrine of Faith Toward God, is the second foundation stone of the Christian life according to [Hebrews 6:1-2](#), and it initially describes that gift of God that we receive through the Gospel which enables us to believe God and to possess an assurance for His justification and righteousness in our life as well as for every other benefit that pertains to a full and total salvation.

*“For by grace are ye saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8*

-Romans 5:1

3. HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BELIEVE IN A RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES STRICTLY BY FAITH?

The Righteousness that comes to us by faith alone is the only proper foundation for the Christian life according to the Bible. To subscribe to a righteousness that is dependent upon our own works can never truly measure up to God’s standard of righteousness that is required for our acceptance by Him. Plus, works righteousness cannot provide us with the inner assurance and persuasion that we are righteous. Works righteousness is man produced and man-centered and will only lead to a mentality of extremes: **PRIDE** or **CONDEMNATION**, while never providing the ‘**DIVINE ASSURANCE**’ within our hearts that we have truly become righteous, justified and acceptable before God.

The following scriptures reinforce the powerful truth that the righteousness we must receive is one solely provided by the GRACE OF GOD through FAITH.

And put no difference between us and them, **purifying their hearts** _____. Acts 15:9

For therein is **the righteousness of God revealed from** _____ **to** _____: as it is written. The just shall live BY FAITH. Romans 1:17

Even **the righteousness of God which is** _____ of Jesus Christ unto all and upon **all them that believe**: for there is no difference. Romans 3:22

Whom God hath set forth to be **a propitiation** _____ **in his blood**, to declare **his righteousness** for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. Romans 3:25

Where is boasting then? **IT IS EXCLUDED**. By what law? of works? Nay: but **by the law**. Romans 3:27

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified _____ without the deeds of the law. Romans 3:28

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision _____, and uncircumcision. Romans 3:30

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, **is counted for righteousness**. Romans 4:5

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through **the righteousness** _____. Romans 4:13

Therefore it is _____, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all. Romans 4:16

What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, **even the righteousness which is** _____. Romans 9:30

But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness . Wherefore? Because they sought it not _____, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; Romans 9:31-32

*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. Galatians 2:16*

*Know ye therefore that they which are **OF FAITH**, the same are the children of Abraham. Galatians 3:7*

*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. Galatians 3:8*

So then they which be _____ are blessed with faithful Abraham. Galatians 3:9

*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live **BY FAITH**. Galatians 3:11*

For ye are all the children of God _____ in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

4. HOW DOES ONE OPERATE IN THIS LEVEL OF SAVING FAITH?

The glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, provides it all! When one hears the Gospel, the Holy Spirit brings the revelation of God's word to our hearts, imparting **HIS FAITH** for us to receive God's justification and righteousness, causing us to become fully assured of our acceptance before God in Jesus Christ.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have NOT HEARD?** and how shall they hear without a preacher?
Romans 10:14

*So then **faith cometh BY HEARING**, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God. Romans 10:17*

'RHEMA': The Spirit quickened and LIVING word to our hearts.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith**. Romans 12:3*

5. DON'T ALL MEN HAVE THE NATURAL ABILITY TO BELIEVE?

All men by nature, are fallen and are therefore naturally disposed to disbelief. When it comes to the truth, the scriptures likens all men as those who naturally dwell in darkness, being blind and deaf. Therefore, at best man can only move in the sense-realm of believing and we know that

God has left much witness of His own existence within this sense realm, especially when we consider creation:

*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world **are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Romans 1:20*

This might cause men to further investigate and to enquire, but the faith that will save him and provide the true illumination of God's great gift contained in His Son is a faith that can only come from God.

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble.** James 2:19*

Read **Matthew 13:13-15**. How did Jesus describe the condition of the vast multitude?

*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest **the light of the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, should **shine unto them**. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 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.** 2 Corinthians 4:4-6*

6. IF WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE, THEN HOW IMPORTANT ARE WORKS?

The works that the Bible stresses are '**works of obedience**'. Faith is a condition of the heart, but it is evidenced through the testimony of obedience.

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and **shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved. **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10*

Read **James 2:14-26** and in your own words briefly describe what is being taught concerning FAITH and WORKS:

*Remembering without ceasing your **work of faith**, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father. 1 Thessalonians 1:3*

Hebrews 11 lists many Godly people who obtained a 'good report' by the evidence of faith in their lives. They all share one thing in common, and that being, they HEARD

God's word (rhema) to their life and then OBEYED, providing a clear witness that they believed God.

Some examples are:

- **Noah**, who built an ark according to the exact specifications that God communicated to him by the rhema word. ([Genesis 6:13-16](#))

- **Abraham**, who was willing to obey God's rhema word even if it meant offering his only son to God. ([Genesis 22:2](#))

- **Moses**, who parted the Red Sea by obeying God's rhema word. ([Ex. 14:16](#))

- **Joshua**, who defeated Jericho by making its walls crumble miraculously by obeying God's rhema word and following God's plan. ([Joshua 6:5-20](#))

7. HOW IMPORTANT IS FAITH, ONCE I'VE ALREADY BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Our entire relationship with God will continue to grow and become established only by a walk of faith.

*For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. **The just shall live by faith.** Romans 1:17*

***But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6*

The following scripture shows how that FAITH must be the foundation upon which we every other Christian virtue is established:

*And beside this, giving all diligence, **ADD TO YOUR FAITH** virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8*

8. CAN WE GROW IN FAITH?

As we've already discussed, God apportions to each of us (his children) a measure of faith. As we continue to grow in our relationship to God hearing His word to our hearts and obeying, then His faith within our life will continue to grow and increase within our lives.

*We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that **your faith groweth** exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth. 2 Thessalonians 1:3*

The following identifies different levels of faith:

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, _____? Matthew 8:26

When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so _____, no, not in Israel. Matthew 8:10

9. WHY DID JESUS LIKEN FAITH TO A SEED?

It is true that Jesus associated faith with that of a seed. The following represents three important lessons that we can learn from the concept of 'seed faith'.

A. The full potential life is already contained in the seed

This means that the full potential of what God desires to be accomplished is contained within the faith He provides through His word. Remember, the full Oak tree is already contained in the tiny acorn!

B. The seed must be sown into good soil for it to prosper

This reinforces the truth that the seed did not originate with us, we received it as His word was sown into our hearts by the Spirit.

*Also, the condition of the soil is a very important factor as well. This is why we are instructed to not **HARDEN** our hearts when we hear God's voice. (Heb. 3:15)*

C. Once the seed germinates and the life within springs forth and grows it will bring change and alteration to the environment where it had been originally sown.

The presence of faith within our lives brings both change and transformation to our own lives and to the world around us.

10. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TRIAL OF OUR FAITH?

From the day when Jesus Christ was taken up and until Jesus Christ returns, His church has had to endure afflictions, persecutions and sufferings for the Gospel's sake, just as He did when He walked this earth.

However, Like Jesus we too should not be moved by what we see or feel, but continue to overcome all things by faith, as we keep our eyes upon His faithful promise. Remember, a life of faith is only purified by the fire and pressures of life and persecution.

*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 1:7*

-1 John 5:4

Often times we must endure personal trials and contrary circumstances after we have received a personal promise from the Lord. This also can be considered a definite 'trial of our faith'. The Bible is filled with examples of people who've had to endure trials while they believed God to bring His word to pass within their own life.

*That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through **faith and patience inherit the promises**. Hebrews 6:12*

11. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS FIVE ADDITIONAL PROMISES OF FAITH?

A. YOU WILL BECOME ESTABLISHED

*...Believe in the LORD your God, **so shall ye be established**; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. 2 Chronicles 20:20*

B. YOU WILL EXPERIENCES AN INNER REST

*For we which have believed **do enter into rest**... Hebrews 4:3*

C. ASSURES ANSWERED PRAYER

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, **believe that ye receive them**, and ye shall have them. Mark 11:24*

** The Bible teaches that God works in us both to will (desire) and to do of HIS GOOD PLEASURE (Phil. 2:13). Keep in mind that as long as we are praying according to the revealed will of God, then God is the source of both our faith and desires when we pray.*

D. BRINGS ABOUT HEALING

*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the **prayer of faith shall save the sick**, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. James 5:14-15*

*The prayer of faith is a prayer that is prayed by the unction of the Spirit of God. Remember it is the **FAITH of GOD** that will bring the healing.*

Peter explains how the lame man was healed:

*And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, **the faith which is by him** hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. Acts 3:16*

E. FAITH ENABLES US TO ENDURE HARDSHIPS AND TRIALS

*And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. **And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: Hebrews 11:36-39***

12. SOME FINAL WORDS CONCERNING FAITH

The faith walk describes a walk ruled and governed by the leading of the Holy Spirit. God's will is already established and all of His works have already been accomplished in the spiritual realm. Faith is that divine quality given to us by God that links us to the spiritual resources where all of God's provision for His will already exists. Faith is what it makes it possible for the invisible to become visible and for the will of God to become established in the earth as it is already established in heaven. Jesus is the author and finisher of this faith and His faith never fails. This is the faith that we are called to live by. Paul called it the FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD. (*Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:12*)

People of faith are people of prayer and of the Spirit. They are not moved by what is apparent to the natural senses, but rather by what the Holy Spirit has spoken and revealed to their hearts. A faith walk is not having FAITH in FAITH, but having faith in God as Jesus taught and trusting God's total provision for our lives. We are called to live by the Faith that comes by him, therefore we must live in communion with the Holy Spirit and have ears to hear what He is saying to our lives.

This type of walk will accomplish much for the glory of God and most importantly be pleasing to Him, enabling us to obtain a good report, BY FAITH!

TRUTH IN REVIEW

ESTABLISHED
SEED
WORKS
GREAT
GOD
TRIAL

DEAD
OBEDIENCE
HARDEN
LIVE
HEARING

RIGHTEOUS
POTENTIAL
BELIEVE
SIGHT
MEASURE

1. The Bible teaches about the _____ of our faith.
2. Faith comes by _____ a word from God.
3. We have been made completely _____ through faith.
4. The Bible promises that we will become _____ by faith.
5. Jesus, often likened faith to a _____.
6. The just shall _____ by faith.
7. It is important that we _____ not our hearts.
8. True faith will always produce _____ of _____.
9. Faith without works is _____.
10. The full _____ of possibility is already contained within the seed.
11. The Bible teaches, that when we pray we must _____.
12. We are to walk by faith and not by _____.
13. God has dealt to each of His children the _____ of faith.
14. Jesus said that the Roman centurion demonstrated _____ faith .
15. Jesus said, "Have faith in _____"