

## The Just Shall Live by Faith Sunday, October 31, 2021

by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Last week we asked the question, "What would it take to be truly happy?"

We looked at a number of the common thoughts of what it would take to really be happy.

"If only I could \_\_\_\_\_, then I would be really happy."

Without rehashing all the things we learned last week, the highlights were that being happy, living a life that is fulfilling, has everything to do with fulfilling the purpose for which I was created!

Which means what?

The list of what that means is huge, a literal lifetime filled with proper choices and decisions; starting with:

You must be born again.

You must learn to make new choices; Godly choices.

You must do the things, literally live a life of service that brings God glory.

And that, of course, happens according to God's plan, as a real and active member of one of the Lord's Churches.

Those requirements eliminate just about everybody in the world - except for most of y'all!

Most of you here today can say, "Cool, I'm saved, I've been scripturally baptized and I am an active serving member right here at Lighthouse Baptist Church".

"That's awesome Pastor, I have now fulfilled the purpose for which I was created, right?"

Actually, no. What that means is that **now you can start.**

### Habakkuk 2:2-4

2 And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just shall live by his faith.**

One of my favorite all-time Scriptures is

**1 John 3:22**, which, on the subject of living by faith, says: *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

There are many things that we can do that are pleasing in God's sight but none of them can be done without faith.

**Hebrews 11:6** *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.*

Saved people: those who are justified, those who are referred to in the Bible as "the just", live under an entirely different set of rules and principles than the rest of the world; in reality a whole different system.

For one thing, we are not under the law. People who are not in Christ like we are, are still under and subject to the curse of the Old Testament law!

### **Galatians 3:10-11**

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.*

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.***

**Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

We, the saved, who are indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit are set free from that law and the curse that comes with it!

**Galatians 5:18** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

**Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

God didn't just move us out from under the curse of the law, He moved us into a whole new system; a whole new plan by which we are meant to live.

**The just shall live by faith. This is not just a command or a strong suggestion, it is our new way of life!**

Three times in the New Testament the Holy Spirit refers to the Old Testament statement that the just shall live by faith; each one revealing a different aspect of the new life we are to now live.

## **I. The Just Shall Live by Faith.**

## A. Just what is faith, anyway?

### 1. pistis

*pis'-tis*

From G3982; *persuasion*, that is, *credence*; moral *conviction* (of *religious* truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), *especially reliance upon Christ for salvation*; abstractly *constancy* in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) *truth* itself: - assurance, *belief*, believe, faith, fidelity.

2. This Greek noun is used 478 times in the New Testament!

3. This noun describes the very core of what we are as Christians.

4. When we exercise faith, the verb that describes that action is a similar Greek word taken from the root word pistis:

### 5. pisteuō

*pist-yoo'-o*

From G4102; *to have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, *credit*; by implication *to entrust* (especially one's spiritual well being to Christ): - *believe* (-r), commit (to trust), *put in trust with*.

6. This verb is used in the New Testament 248 times; always when referring to how to be saved; most often translated to "believe".

## B. We need to understand how faith works.

1. Faith is defined in Scripture.

### 2. Hebrews 10:35-11:1

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive **the promise**.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 **Now the just shall live by faith**: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. The key to exercising faith is not about how firmly we grit our teeth and stubbornly cling to our God and guns.

3. The key to exercising faith is the promise.
4. The strength of faith is the faithfulness of the one making the promise

C. *For example:*

1. Even though it is not technically incorrect to say that we are saved by faith, it is not our faith that saves us!
2. James addresses this issue.  
**James 2:14** *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*
3. The answer is no; our faith cannot save us...
4. but what our faith is in, can!
5. Romans 3 says that we are justified (saved) by faith.  
**Romans 3:28** *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
6. This statement is true because the writer, three verses earlier, pre-qualified what their faith was in: "*through faith in his blood*".
7. Let me ask you: was it your faith that saved you, or was it Jesus' blood that saved you?
8. How do I know I am saved? Because I have a promise, and the One who made that promise is faithful!
9. **Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

Point number two is:

## **II. The Just Shall Live by Faith.**

*A. It is through faith that we receive life eternal, it is now by faith that we live that new life.*

### **1. Romans 1:16-17**

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

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

2. What is “from faith to faith”?

3. Our faith begins initially with our trusting God to save us, when we place our trust in the blood of Jesus as the complete payment of all our sins.

4. God’s righteousness now revealed in us;

5. We move on from that initial faith in Christ to save us, to faith in Him for all kinds of things after that.

6. Every exercise of faith is connected to a promise; God’s promise to save us from our sins is simply the first one.

7. We qualify for the rest of God’s promises, only after becoming one of His children, by exercising the first one.

*B. This theme is found throughout the Scriptures.*

1. **1 John 5:13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

2. Just like Romans 1; we trust Him to save us and then we can trust Him for all the other promises that are ours, now that we have eternal life.

*C. There is something extra you should know.*

1. We don’t use the King James Version of the Bible just because we are stubborn and old-fashioned.

2. Virtually all new translations of the Bible, like the NIV, for example; leave out the last half of this verse, and dozens of other Scriptures as well.

3. Why? This is the result of men looking to their own intellect to interpret Scripture instead of allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture.

Point number three today is:

### **III. The Just Shall Live by Faith.**

*A. There are actually three key elements to faith.*

1. A promise.

2. The one making the promise.
3. The person meeting the condition(s) of the promise.

*B. There is no such thing as just having faith.*

1. Many have said, "I just have faith that I am going to be healed".
2. And then, when no healing comes, it's God's fault.
3. Does God promise to heal you? No, He does not.

*C. Faith has requirements.*

1. Faith requires a promise.
2. Faith requires your trusting in the one issuing the promise, for whatever that particular promise may be.
3. Faith then requires your meeting whatever the condition(s) of that promise may be.

*C. The first and greatest promise of God is free; some are not.*

1. The only condition to be saved from the penalty of your sins, is to simply place your trust in Jesus for it; it is a free gift.
2. Not all of God's promises are free; most of them require action of some kind on your part.

### 3. **2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

4. Somewhere in Scripture there is a promise that will meet every need you are ever going to have.

5. There are spiritual promises like *1 John 1:9*.

6. There are financial promises like *Malachi 3* and dozens in the *Proverbs* and *II Corinthians*.

7. There are promises for your business and how to raise your children, and how to conduct yourself, and how to love each other; even how to dress and wear your hair.

8. The point being, there is a promise that will provide you with every aspect of life and godliness.

9. Learning these promises and then meeting the conditions of these promises is how "the just shall live by faith"!

**In Conclusion:**

Your choice is simple.

**You can struggle and spit and fuss and cry and lose...**

**Or, you can learn to live by faith.**