

Faith for Living Life

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I. “The Togetherness of Grace, Faith and Works”

A. It is impossible for all three to be the cause of eternal life.

—It is quite possible that faith in grace leads to works.

B. God’s eternal salvation is by grace and by and through Jesus Christ

Act 15:11 ...we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...

C. It is by God’s grace that God gives His child the gift of faith

1. God gives belief to His child

Php 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

2. The Holy Spirit produces faith in His child

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering... goodness, faith

3. A mighty work of God is required for God’s child to believe

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

D. The grace of God-given faith saves us by enabling us to believe in God-given grace

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

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...

Rom 8:24 For we are saved by hope...

E. The relation of grace and faith to works

1. Faith in grace demands works

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2 God forbid...

2. God's grace equips God's child to good works

2Co 9:8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

II. "The Relation of Faith to Hope"

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...

A. God gives the new birth—Then God gives the gift of faith—The ability to believe

B. God gives the gospel to tell us what to believe (even to define the things hoped for)

—A short version of the gospel of salvation by grace

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

C. The "things hoped for" define reality for faith

D. Faith gives substance (realness) to things hoped for —Things hoped for give clearness (definition) to faith

E. Faith makes what you hope for real to you —Hope makes what you put your faith in clear to you

F. Faith gives reality to hope —Hope gives clarity to faith

III. Faith in things hoped for gives strength for things now

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham...went out, not knowing whither he went.

Heb 11:9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country...

Heb 11:10 For he looked for a city...whose builder and maker *is* God.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off...

Heb 11:24 By faith Moses...

Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Heb 11:27 ...endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

IV. Faith is for living life

Rom 1:16 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.

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

A. From what has been said—This cannot be a call to become alive (to be born again)

1. They were already called of Jesus Christ and further called to be saints

Rom 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Rom 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints...

2. They already had world renowned faith (faith is a fruit of the Spirit)

Rom 1:8 ...that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

3. Yet their faith needed to be established and comforted

Rom 1:11 For I long to see you, that...ye may be established;

Rom 1:12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

4. The underlying point of Paul's letter is that their faith needed to be lived

Rom 1:17 ...as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

B. Paul later says that God calls to eternal life—So faith is not how we become alive

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Rom 9:24 Even us, whom he hath called...

C. The Old Testament reference is not how you get life—but how you live life

Hab 1:13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

Hab 2:4 ...the just shall live by his faith.

Hab 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Hab 2:20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Hab 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

Hab 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

V. Faith is for living life—Not for getting life

A. Faith is not in the heaven equation

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 3:3-4 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid...

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

B. Faith doesn't get us to heaven—It's God's miracle so we can know there is a heaven

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

C. Faith is God's gift that lets us live and die with the promise of a waiting heaven

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off...

D. Faith in grace saves God's children from fears about getting themselves to heaven

Rom 10:1 ...my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Rom 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Rom 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Rom 10:4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

VI. Faith is for facing things—Not for getting things

1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Heb 13:5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Mat 6:24 ...Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on...

Mat 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

VII. Faith is NOT just about what's in it for me—Faith is about giving Jesus glory

A. The real purpose of faith is so we will glorify God

Act 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

B. Real faith in grace demands works that glorify God and that serve others

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service

Gal 5:6 ...faith which worketh by love.

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Jas 2:18 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.

2Th 1:11 ...fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

2Th 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you...