

Faith Is for Livin' Whatcha Been Given

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I. Bible truth: God gives eternal life—Without means—Unassisted—All by grace

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Rom 9:16 ...not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Psa 65:4 Blessed *is the man whom thou choosest*, and causest to approach *unto thee*...

II. Problems with the modern-day '*Faith-In-My-Faith Plans*' for eternal life

A. Many underestimate the miracle of faith—Natural man cannot just 'do' real faith

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

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...

B. Many overestimate the role of faith—Faith is not what man does to get eternal life

1. Faith is not the cause of born-again—Faith is the result of born-again

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

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Php 1:29 For unto you it is given...to believe on him...

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

2. The unborn-again natural man (who has no faith)—Has no ‘will-to’ or ‘can-do’

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*...

C. ‘Faith-In-My-Faith’ leaves me with much fear—My hope becomes doubt

Luk 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more *will he clothe* you, O ye of little faith?

Mar 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Luk 17:6 ...If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea...

Mar 9:24 ...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

D. My fears about my faith go away—If I know my 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 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

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

III. Faith is for living the life that believing the gospel empowers us to live

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. Faith is not for getting life—Faith is for living life (The Romans already had life)

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...

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

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

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

—Surely Paul did not start his letter with one plan for heaven—Then go to another
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.

B. Faith is not for getting life—Faith is for facing life (Habakkuk’s faith saved him)

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

Hab 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans...

Hab 1:13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil...wherefore...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.

C. There is salvation in believing the gospel—Even deliverance for those who believe

1. Believing the gospel doesn’t help us get eternal life—God gives that by grace alone

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

2. Belief in the gospel of salvation by grace helps us face life and live life

Rom 1:17 ...The just shall live by faith.

3. ‘Saved by believing’ is in the *Living Watcha Been Given* phase—Not the *Life-Giving*

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the word of truth.

IV. Justified by grace versus justified by faith

A. God justified me by grace—When God (by seeing) knew that Jesus died for me

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ..

B. I justify myself by faith—When I see (by faith) and know that Jesus died for me

—Justified by faith is not God declaring me just—It is me declaring myself just

C. Faith in the gospel of salvation by grace doesn’t give life—It gives peace about life

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

V. What is God's chief purpose for giving us the gift of faith?

A. No—Faith is not something we give God so He will born us again

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

B. Yes—God gives us faith—So, we can live life by faith—And face life with faith

Rom 1:17 ...The just shall live by faith.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

C. Yet, the main reason God gives us faith is to equip us to praise and glory Jesus

1. Faith gives present realness to eternal hope—Gives confirmation of the unseen

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

2. Faith lets us not only see—But be persuaded that God's promise of heaven is real

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

3. It is by God—That we believe in God—That our faith and hope might be in God

1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

4. To believe in the God who saves by His grace—Is to experience a 'Life-Changer'

a. After Saul (Paul) saw Jesus—He was not the same man—A new way to live life

Act 9:6 ...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...

b. When we (by faith) see Jesus—We are not the same—A new way to live life

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us...

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

5. Real faith in real grace calls for works that would glorify Jesus

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

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

Jas 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

1Th 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love...

6. A New Testament pattern and principle—‘Now you believe in grace: Therefore...’

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.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.