

Faith and the Gospel (Part 2)

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Scripture References

Romans 1:16	Hebrews 9:15-17
Galatians 1:6, 7	Romans 3:27
2 Corinthians 12:7-10	Galatians 2:16
Acts 28:30, 31	Galatians 2:16, <i>NLT</i>
Hebrews 11:1	Romans 5:1, 2
Romans 10:17	

Summary

*If we want to get anything good out of life, we must know where to look. We could never earn our own deliverance, preservation, healing, success, or prosperity on our own; these things are only available by God's grace. When we believe in Jesus Christ and depend on Him, this unmerited, undeserved favor from God gives us real power to receive from Him. We will always have adversity to overcome in some form or fashion; although the world struggles unsuccessfully with it, born-again believers have the ability to succeed and get results despite the situation. Everything we need is available to us in the spirit realm; our faith is all we need to move those things to the physical realm where we can access them. A strong faith depends solely on the Gospel of Grace. Genuine belief that everything we need has **already** been done for us and is waiting for us to receive it by faith brings the manifestations we are hoping for.*

A. God's undeserved favor strengthens us, gives us power, and makes us successful in life.

1. 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 (Romans 1:16).
 - a. Salvation does not just mean being born again; it also means deliverance, preservation, healing, soundness, and everything else the finished works of Jesus made available.
 - b. "Power" is the ability to get the job done where our healing, deliverance, and prosperity are concerned. They are all available to us by faith.
2. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6, 7).
 - a. Paul referred to the grace of Christ as the only true gospel. The *gospel* of Christ is the same thing as the *grace* of Christ. The gospel of grace is the power of God.
 - b. Grace is defined as the unmerited, abounding provision of the unrestrained operation of the infinite love of God. We receive this only through Jesus Christ.
3. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in

persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

- a. Paul had issues to deal with just like we do. He confessed that God's grace was well able to help him overcome everything that the devil threw at him. The power of Christ is available to us in our weakest moments.

B. Studying the Gospel of Grace builds up our faith. Faith allows us to draw from grace.

1. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him (Acts 28:30, 31).
 - a. Paul drew what he needed from God's grace; this grace gave him confidence to preach the gospel. We have access to the same source of power that he had.
2. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).
 - a. We use our faith as a tool to draw what we need from the unseen spiritual realm to the visible, physical realm.
 - b. If faith is the substance, then hope is the goal-setter.
3. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).
 - a. We can only build and strengthen our faith through the Word of God. If faith is the substance and it comes by the Word, then the Word equals faith. Therefore, the Word of God is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.
 - b. There is a difference between hope and faith. Hope is centered around something people think God will do "someday;" faith is the acknowledgment that God has *already* done everything necessary for success in life. Genuine faith results in thanksgiving for what He did.

C. We are no longer under Mosaic Law, but under God's grace. Faith in Him justifies us.

1. And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth (Hebrews 9:15-17).
 - a. The promises of God have already been spoken; His will is contained in His Word. To know His will, all we need to do is to study His Word; no guesswork is required.
 - b. The New Testament is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ; He has already said "Yes." It's no longer a matter of what He is going to do eventually, but a matter of us receiving what He has already done.
2. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith (Romans 3:27).
 - a. The law of faith has replaced the Law of Moses. In its proper context, the law of faith refers to established principles similar to the laws of physics in operation. Every promise made in the New Testament operates by faith. By contrast, the law of the Old Testament was the law of works.
3. Under the law, people's works made them righteous; under the new covenant, righteousness is not by works, but by faith.
 - a. 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).

- b. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law (Galatians 2:16. *NLT*).
4. 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 (Romans 5:1, 2).
 - a. Faith gives us access to what grace has made available; it causes us to rejoice and give thanks.

Category: faith

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