



THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

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This is the great ‘heart-cry’ of the champion of Grace, the Apostle Paul. The phrase occurs in the two mountaintop books that herald the Grace of God in the New Testament. Paul declares it in Romans 1:17, as the only way to escape the just judgment of God against our sin. He declares it again in Galatians 3:11, in the same context of escaping death and entering into life through faith in the Person and work of Jesus. **He came on our behalf to rescue us from the Law, and the death it brings us, through our failure and inability to keep the Law.**

This is so important. Romans is the book that **DECLARES** the Grace of God available to man through faith. Galatians is the book that **DEFENDS** the Grace of God available to man through faith.

The Holy Spirit made it very easy for us to see that the way into the life of God is not by works, but by faith.

In your journey, it’s quite likely you’ve heard that we are “justified by faith.” Yes, and again I say, YES! I am so glad that God made it so very easy to enter into His kingdom, and that is as it should be. If He wanted to rescue people, and He does, then why would He make it difficult?

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB)

My fear though, is that we are stopping way too short of what this glorious revelation is heralding to us. The Holy Spirit did not say, “The just shall ENTER the kingdom by faith.” He said, “The just shall LIVE by faith.” **The goal is not only to be in the kingdom but to have the kingdom in us; not only to enter into life by faith but to experience life by faith.** Faith not only unlocks the door to life, but it is also what enables us to walk through the door and live in life.

Here is a simple illustration. Entering into life by faith is like making the decision to jump in a pool. It is a one-time act and a wonderful choice to make on a hot summer day. Experiencing life is like making the continual decision to stay in the pool, and enjoy the cool refreshing water that you initially chose to experience when you dove in.

I believe it will help us to go back to when this phrase, “The just shall live by faith,” was first spoken. Habakkuk was facing a very difficult season of life. The Chaldeans were on the way to destroy the nation of Israel. As he himself puts it, “*Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines,*” Habakkuk 3:17a (NASB). The devastation would be so bad that food would become scarce and life would become a very difficult thing to experience. “**Yet,**” declares Habakkuk, “**I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.**” Habakkuk 3:18 (NASB) I trust you saw it. **Faith is not only the means by which we secure a relationship with God.**

Faith is also the means by which we experience God in our daily lives, no matter what the world may hurl against us... We LIVE by faith!

God stands ready to be all that He is to all that we need, and we lay hold of all that He is by trusting Him in the moment. It is very much like the electricity that is wired into our houses. It stands there, in all its power, waiting to light up a room, but we have to flip the switch to unleash that power. The Apostle Paul made this very clear when he stated, *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,”* Colossians 2:6 (NASB).

We received Him by faith, trusting Him to give us LIFE. Now we walk by faith, trusting Him for the experience of His life, in the midst of what we experience in a fallen world. **Receiving His life, personally and powerfully by faith, will enable us to be more than conquerors over that which would seek to destroy us.** Though life may become difficult, like Habakkuk, by faith we will rejoice in the Lord because we have life with God, and nothing can take that life from us. AMEN!

You are loved!
Pastor Frank