

# UNDERSTANDING FAITH

Rom. 4:13 - 5:1

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. 16 For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 (as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

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Justified by FAITH - righteous live by FAITH - grow strong in FAITH

What is FAITH? pistis = belief, conviction shown in trust

(Abraham)...**grew strong in faith**, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what **God had promised, He was able also to perform.**

Faith is a DECISION to trust **a promise** that you are given and **ACT UPON IT!**

By FAITH, Abraham offered his ONLY SON Isaac.... promise?

By FAITH, Noah constructed the Ark... promise?

By FAITH, Moses applied the blood to the doorposts & lintel... promise

Can FAITH also cause our condemnation & downfall? How?

**Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, `You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, `You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " 4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

Which promise did they put their faith in?

**Did FAITH destroy Adam & Eve? Can FAITH destroy us still today?**

How important is it to understand Faith and what promise it chooses to trust?

Imagine that an ILLNESS has spread through everyone you know. It slowly makes people more and more irrational & foolish. We have tried everything we know of healthy eating & exercise & EVERY remedy & concoction that we can think of and we are all still dying.

Then a Physician comes forward and says "This is the drug that will cure anyone who takes it. It MUST be kept undiluted & unadulterated by anything else and it MUST be administered by injection." He gives a free supply to his workmen and they spread it everywhere for free.

Those who make their living by quack remedies & concoctions quickly kill the Physician & begin to persecute those trying to give away the Cure because it makes them irrelevant & look foolish. Those being persecuted tell everyone to have FAITH in the Physician & His Cure.

What does FAITH mean in this context? **Belief?**

1. Does it mean to just Believe that the Physician **is a physician?**
2. Does it mean to just Believe that the Physician **has created a true Cure?** *and..*
3. What is the promise? A CURE. **any conditions?** undiluted & by injection
4. **Will just believing with absolute conviction & trust cure anyone?**

What does FAITH mean if not **JUST BELIEVE??** **TRUST is shown by???**

1. you **must** have the cure administered by injection.  
(what if you don't like needles?) by mouth is OK? *what is faith?*
2. you **MAKE SURE** the cure is undiluted.  
(how do you make sure?) *where do you put your faith? Can faith question?*

What must people do who **act in FAITH** to the Physician? *hard to understand?*

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**What will people do who DO NOT have faith in the Physician? Two types!**  
**Those without FAITH in the Physician & His Cure:**

1. They dismiss the Physician and promote their OWN CURE for man's illness.  
Due to their own infection, EVERY CURE will become irrational.  
They will accept ONLY their viewpoints and all dissenting views are mocked.  
They will excuse all failure by saying a COMPLETE CURE is in the future.  
**IS THEIR SYSTEM STILL BASED UPON FAITH?**  
Will their faith condemn and destroy them?
2. They accept and **BELIEVE in** the Physician, but add their OWN mixture to the cure.
  1. The FIRST STEP is to redefine FAITH. (why?) where is Trust?
  2. The SECOND STEP is to make FAITH simple belief & conviction. (why?)
  3. The THIRD STEP is to **ARGUE** that their mixture is the Best. faith?
  4. Due to their own infection, every argument will become **more irrational.**  
They will see all attempts at rational discussion as a **lack of FAITH!**  
**IS THEIR SYSTEM STILL BASED UPON FAITH?**  
Will their faith condemn & destroy them?

Is it easy to understand what **FAITH is** in the example of the Physician & His Cure?

**The Physician is Jesus Christ. Sin is the Illness that is killing us all.**  
**His Cure is the New Covenant in His Blood.**

How should we understand "saved by Faith in Jesus?" **Faith = SHOW TRUST!**

1. Just believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Died for you? Raised from the dead?
2. Just BELIEVE that His Blood will save you?
3. Has simply believing EVER joined anyone into a covenant at any time?  
**Will just believing with absolute conviction & trust SAVE anyone?**

How does Jesus say we are joined into His Covenant?

1. Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved
2. Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
3. Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. 1 Peter 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you...

What does Scripture say about keeping God's Cure undiluted & unadulterated?

1. Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!
- 2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,

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for correction, for training in righteousness  
What will people do who DO NOT have faith in Jesus Christ? *Two types!*

Those **without FAITH** in Jesus Christ or His Covenant:

1. They dismiss Jesus & God and promote their OWN CURE for man's illness.  
Because of our sinful nature, EVERY teaching will become more irrational.  
They will accept ONLY their viewpoints and all dissenting views are mocked.  
They will excuse all failure by saying **full knowledge** is in the future.  
IS THEIR SYSTEM STILL BASED UPON FAITH? [\*what is the Promise?\*](#)  
Will their faith condemn and destroy them?
2. They accept and BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, but add their own mixture to His Word.
  1. The FIRST STEP is to redefine FAITH. (why?) *where is Trust?*
  2. The SECOND STEP is to re-make FAITH as simple belief & conviction. *why?*
  3. The THIRD STEP is to ARGUE that their mixture is the Best. *righteousness?*
  4. Due to their own sinfulness, every argument will become more irrational.  
ie., "results may vary" "God changed His mind" "Scripture is faulty"  
They will see all attempts at rational discussion as a lack of FAITH!  
IS THEIR SYSTEM STILL BASED UPON FAITH? [\*What is the Promise?\*](#)

Is there ANY DIFFERENCE between the faith of those who DENY Jesus and the Faith of those who CONFESS Jesus, BUT add their own beliefs into His Covenant?

Will their faith condemn and destroy them as well?

What do people do that actually have FAITH in Jesus & His Word from God?

1. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God Who died for us.
2. Show TRUST in Him by joining His Covenant in the way He said to.
3. Search God's Word diligently to keep their own ideas & beliefs from being mixed into the Word give to us by God.
4. Show in their daily behavior that they TRUST HIS PROMISES.

NOTICE: yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. [\*\*The Righteous live by Faith IN THE PROMISES OF GOD!!!\*\*](#)

Adam & Eve had faith in the serpent and were condemned.

Moses had faith in his own decision and was kept out of the promised land

The Pharisees had faith in their own understanding of God's Word and killed Jesus.

FAITH in every instance led to condemnation & destruction.

Those that PROFESS to have faith without understanding what it is, **even if it is faith in Jesus,** will only wind up being condemned and cast out.

Do you understand what FAITH IN JESUS actually means? [\*\*What does God say?\*\*](#)

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