

The Just shall Live By Faith (Rom 1:16-17)



In the year Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord seated on the throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. (Is 6:1-3) It was a time of crisis in Israel - the good king Uzziah died! But what did the Seraphim see as they cried out, *'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!'* How did they see the earth full of the glory of the Lord?

Do you see the Lord high and lifted up and His glory filling the church? It is time for the church to have a fresh vision of the Lord as the world seems to be spinning out of control. God's plan is already written in His word. The outcome of the battle has already been decided in our favour! We need to see God through the eye of faith in our daily life. We are living in a 'perilous time' or 'fierce time' (2 Tim 3:1). It requires faith from God's people who know God and His plan, and walk with God boldly without fear.

1. What is Faith?

'Without faith it is impossible to please Him. He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.' (Heb 11:6)

- a. God has ruled out any other basis of relationship with us. *'And he [Abraham] believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.'* (Gen 15:6)
- b. When we approach God for a relationship, we must believe in 2 things: God exists. (Most people believe that God exists.) God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Do you believe these two things? If we seek Him with all our heart that we will find Him and God will reward (bless) us?
- c. The ultimate object of faith is God Himself, His goodness and His faithfulness. Biblical faith is primarily not directed at things, but it is directed to God (God's love, God's goodness, God's graciousness), and His word (God's faithfulness). So, unbelief is sin. Unbelief denies God's goodness. It denies God's character. It suggests God is not good, that God does not care, and that God is not faithful to His Word, and therefore, we cannot depend on His word. It is the origin of sin in the garden of Eden. Faith reverses it. Faith acknowledges God as the awesome Living God, and the loving heavenly Father we can totally depend on.

1.1 Faith and Faithfulness

Faith, 'pistis' in Greek means both (a) faith/belief; (b) faithfulness - two sides of the same coin. Biblical faith is not a set of intellectual propositions about God, but a relationship with God we enter into on God's terms - a relationship of trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God based on the work of the cross of Christ. Believing in God is more than having some intellectual ideas about God. It means you are committed to God and His unchanging Word. You refuse to compromise with any force in the world that denies God's character and His testimony. This kind of fierce faithfulness establishes a real relationship with the living God. You give yourself to God this way, and God gives Himself to you in the same way. That is what it means to believe in God. Biblical faith is almost synonymous with 'loyalty'. E.g., Daniel and his three friends.

1.2 Right Relationship with God

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.' (Rom 1:16-17, C.f. Hab 2:4)

In Rom 1:17 the word 'faith' is quoted three times. Twice it relates to God's righteousness for us, and once to the life of God in the Spirit. So, it means both righteousness (right relationship with God) and Spirit-led life depend directly on our faith.

All together FOUR times the Bible says, *'The righteous man shall live by faith.'* C.f. Gal 3:11 - establishing the right relationship with God; Heb 10:38 - going on believing in the time of testing. It means we enter into salvation by the way of faith, and we also grow in our salvation by faith all of our life. So, faith is required in every sphere of life, and we progress from one degree of faith to a higher degree of faith.

Apart from faith we have no righteousness with God, and therefore no salvation and no life in God. Each of us is saved only by faith, and must go on living by faith in every part of life. It is FAITH to live by.

2. [How does Faith work practically?](#)

1.1 [Eating](#)

Paul relates faith to something as mundane as eating in Rom 14:2-4. There was a controversy about whether it is okay to eat the food sacrificed to idols. In those days meat was sold in the market, they were offered to idols. Some believers felt it was a sin to eat such things while others felt free to eat them after praying over them. It bothered some believers' conscience while it didn't bother some others at all. Paul instructs the believers in Rome not to judge one another regarding external issues such as food, but be careful not to defile a brother's conscience. Each one was to decide before God by faith, so that whether they decide to eat the meat or decide not, they do not come under the condemnation of their conscience.

Paul says later explains the principle of faith in eating. *'Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.'* (Rom 14:23) C.f. Righteousness is from faith (Rom 1:17). And whatever does not flow from faith is sin (Rom 14:23).

So how can faith be the basis of something so mundane as eating?

- a. Everything comes from God. *'God causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart.'* (Ps 104:14-15)
- b. Then your faith is activated to thank God for the food He provides for you.
- c. This sanctifies the food you are receiving into your body by means of the Word of God and thanksgiving. *'For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.'* (1 Tim 4:4-5) The prayer of faith gives the food we eat a special spiritual quality.
- d. To eat in faith means we dedicate to God the strength we gain from the food to do His will (Rom 12:1). *'Whoever serves let him serve with the strength God supplies'* (1 Pet 4:11).
C.f. What does it mean to not eat by faith? *'Moreover, all his days he also eats in darkness, in much vexation and sickness and anger.'* (Eccl 5:17, ESV) To eat not out of faith is to eat in darkness, and the result is vexation, sickness, and anger.

1.2 [Rest - Sleep in Faith](#)

'I cried to the LORD with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. Selah.' (Ps 3:4) David cried to the LORD and He heard David's voice. How did the Lord answer David's prayer? *'I lay down and slept. I woke, for the LORD sustained me.'* (Ps 3:5) C.f. Ps 4:8, *'I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.'* David could lie down and sleep because of his faith in God's faithfulness. He trusted the Lord for total protection when he was running from Saul's army. What a promise for insomnia! Ps 127:2 – *'It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for He gives His beloved sleep.'* Or *'For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep.'* (NAVS) Even when we sleep, God is awake and still provides for us. Both are valid translations.

3. [What This All Means](#)

1.1 [Total Security in God's faithfulness.](#)

'The LORD is my Shepherd I shall not want.' (Ps 23:1) Or *'The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.'* (NLT) This is not a creed. David is testifying about his relationship with God. Notice the total security this relationship gave David. Thank God David did not add anything after this. Whatever he may have added would have spoiled it by limiting it. He is saying, 'All my needs are met in God.' True security is in our personal relationship with God based on faith – i.e., our commitment, loyalty to God and faith in His faithfulness.

1.2 [Releasing Faith based on God's Word](#)

How do you release your faith in God's word? By the confession of faith. Confession means: (a) Saying something out boldly and publicly; (b) Saying the same as. So, we make the words of our mouth agree with

God's word. Bring our word in line with God's word. C.f. 2 Cor 4:13 is a quotation of a psalm, *'Spirit of faith...I believed, therefore, I also spoke.'* This relationship between our mouth and God's word is stated THREE times over by Paul in Romans 10:8-10. We make our confession personal to our specific prayers. This is not mind over matter, but aligning our lips and hearts to God's Word in the Scriptures.

- a. The limits of what we confess are set by the word of God. We don't confess whatever we want.
- b. The focus of our faith is God and His word, not things of this world. Our motivation is love, not greed.
- c. The fulfilment of our confession is placed on God's power and His timing, not my confession or my faith. We depend on God's faithfulness to fulfil His word in His time.

4. [Confession of Faith](#)

1.1 [Psalm 91 Confession for Protection](#)

'Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample under foot. Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.' (Ps 91:9-16)

1.2 [Australia's Confession for Freedom of the Gospel](#)

He [Captain Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros] secured sponsorship from Pope Clement VIII and King Philip III of Spain to seek out the southern continent Terra Australis Incognita (Unknown South Land). A letter to de Quiros from King Phillip read: 'That no time be lost in discovering that Australia region so far unknown, so these people may have knowledge of the Gospel and be brought into Spiritual obedience.'

De Quiros was a Catholic Jew. He searched for a year, burdened with a desire to establish a holy settlement to be called The New Jerusalem. Where and what he found has caused issue.

On the Day of Pentecost, 14th May 1606 he declared:

'Let the heavens, the earth, the waters with all their creatures, and those present, witness that I, Captain Pedro Ferdinand de Quiros... in the name of Jesus Christ... hoist this emblem of the holy cross on which His person was crucified and whereon He gave His life for the ransom and remedy of all the human race... on this day of Pentecost, 14th May... I take possession of all this part of the south as far as the pole in the name of Jesus... which from now on shall be called the southern land of the Holy Ghost... and this always and forever... and to the end that to all natives, in all the said lands, the holy and sacred evangel may be preached zealously and openly.'