



FIRM FOUNDATION Series
Justification by Faith

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Justification for salvation is distinguished in scripture by...

1. The Unattainable Merit of Self-Righteousness
2. The Available Merit of the Righteousness of God through faith

Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

The righteousness of God is not only manifest but also made available to all!

The righteousness of God is ONLY obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

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

Through faith we are...**Justified!**

- To be declared innocent, to regard as right/righteous.
- For the sinner it is to be made innocent and to be made righteous.
- Freely without cost and without cause.

Justification deals with sin in its entirety. We are complete in Christ.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To understand justice, we must understand there is a demand for sin which is death.

Jesus was righteous, without sin and perfect in nature. He was set forth to die for us.

The Righteous One took our place in death. We receive this propitiation through faith.

Romans 3:26 *To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*

Romans 3:27 **Where is boasting then?** *It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.*

“Where is boasting then?”

The thought of our own flesh having any reason to feel confident in our earning salvation should be completely gone.

This principle of justification by faith is continually established throughout Scripture.

Galatians 2:16 *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.*

The Old Testament establishes the fallacy of self-righteous works.

Psalm 51:16 *For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.*

Psalm 51:17 *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Psalm 51:18 *Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

Psalm 51:19 *Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.*

The formula for Biblical justification:

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

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly*

Jesus Christ – the perfect man without sin

Died – met the demand

For the ungodly – the filthy, depraved, unworthy

We are justified through...FAITH

Romans 16:25 *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,*

Romans 16:26 *But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

The establishing of the justified saint in the gospel

1. **The preaching of Jesus Christ**
 - Revelation of the truth of the Gospel
 - According to the Scriptures
2. **Obedience of Faith**

What is faith?

Faith is the persuaded mind.

Faith is the hope of things not seen.

Faith is obedience to His Word.

Faith in Christ IS in conflict with self-righteous works.

Faith in Christ IS NOT in conflict with obedient works.

- This miracle of justification, this miracle of the sinner made righteous is not accomplished or earned by any work of man. Nothing, not one work, not repentance, not believing in your heart or confessing with your mouth.
- Jesus told the rich young ruler to go and sell all that he had and follow Him. All the commandments that the rich young ruler had already obeyed would not justify him and neither would this work that Jesus had now given him.
- Perhaps the greatest work that we can do is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. And yet, even this work does not justify us.

James gives us an understanding of obedient works in the realm of saving faith.

James 2:14 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

The evidence of faith will be obedient works.

If you say you have faith, but no works, can it really be faith in operation?

James 2:15 *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

James 2:16 *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

This is not compassion in operation, this is compassion in theory.

James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

James 2:18 *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Obedient works are not the evidence of righteousness but rather the evidence of faith.

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

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

**Obedient works are scriptural.
Faith without works is no faith at all!**

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

Ephesians 2:9 *Not of works*, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

There is no salvation by works, and yet there is no saving faith without obedient works.

The jailer was preached to that he might believe...

Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

Acts 16:32 *And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.*

Acts 16:33 *And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.*

- He was baptized – an obedient work.
- If it was an unnecessary work, Paul and Silas would have stopped them and said “*Your faith is enough. Don’t get caught up in works.*”

After the household of Cornelius believed the preaching of Jesus Christ, the command came forth to be baptized.

Acts 10:47 *Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*

Acts 10:48 *And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

We are not caught up in self-righteous works, but we are completely caught up in obedient works.

Let us examine the righteousness Abraham received.

Romans 4:1 *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?*

Romans 4:2 *For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.*

Romans 4:3 *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

In simplicity, Abraham received righteousness as we do, through faith!

This is an essential principle for us to understand. Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for Righteousness!

Romans 4:4 *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.*

Romans 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

If we will live by faith in Christ, just like Abraham, it will be counted unto us for righteousness.

Consider then how James reconciles Abraham's faith with obedient works.

James 2:21 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*

James 2:22 *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

The fulfillment of your faith to be justified and receive the righteousness of God is to believe and be obedient.