

May 19, 2013

LIVING BY FAITH ó Part II  
(HOW DO THE JUSTIFIED LIVE?)  
Habakkuk 2: 4

**In studying** this statement in the scriptures, “**The Just shall live by faith**”, we have already seen that it is the õjustö (JUSTIFIED) who õshall liveö. **The JUSTIFIED** are those chosen sinners whom God declares righteous based on Christø’s imputed righteousness ALONE. **Explain! THEY** are the ones who õshall liveö. **They** are the ones who õMUST liveö. **The JUSTIFIED** (must) be given life.

**Christ** said of these who are JUSTIFIED that He MUST (not that He MIGHT) bring them into the fold.

**Look** at John 10: 14-16 “**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.**

**15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

**16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**”

**The JUSTIFIED** õshall liveö. **It is CERTAIN** that they WILL live. **Our** concentration today will be on HOW the JUSTIFIED will live. **It is CERTAIN** that they õshall liveö. **And**, it is CERTAIN that they will live BY FAITH.

**What** is this FAITH by which those who are JUSTIFIED (shall) live?

**Look** at Romans 1: 16a-17 õ“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:**

**17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**”**

**The** literal translation is OUT OF õfaithö INTO õfaithö. **There** are TWO õfaithsö. **First**, there is OBJECTIVE faith. **This** FAITH is outward. **It is** the DOCTRINE which sets Christ forth and reveals how God is just to justify ungodly sinners by the righteousness of Christ alone. õ**The** righteousness of Godö is revealed OUT OF (the) õfaithö (**i.e.** **It** is revealed OUT OF the body of truth that declares Christ).

**SECOND**, there is SUBJECTIVE faith. **This FAITH** is inward. **It is IN** the sinner. This is the BELIEF in (rest in/dependence upon) Christ, the OBJECT of (true) faith. **The** righteousness of God is revealed OUT OF the (outward) body of truth that declares Christ. **And**, it is revealed INTO the (inward) BELIEF/REST in Christ ALONE for all of salvation.

**No sinner** can have the right OBJECT of faith until he/she hears the Gospel. **“How** shall they call of Him in whom they have not believed? **How** shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? **How** shall they hear without a preacher?ö (Romans 10 13-14).

**The** book of Hebrews gives us the scriptural definition of FAITH.

**Look** at Hebrews 11: 1 **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

**We see** in this verse the two DIFFERENT, two DISTINCT öfaithsö. **But**, although they are DIFFERENT and DISTINCT, they are INSEPARABLE.

**First**, FAITH öis the SUBSTANCE of things hoped forö. **The** first faith is outward (objective) faith. **This** is what inward (subjective) faith looks to and rests in.

**What** öthingsö are sinners commanded to öhope forö? **We do** not (CANNOT) know the right answer to that question UNTIL we hear those öthingsö revealed in the Gospel. **Are we** to öhope forö eternal life and blessedness from God based on something found IN US?

**That** is what we think by nature and that is what the world's religion teaches us. **But**, the Gospel turns our minds to different öthingsö; to a different öhopeö. **It turns** our minds to salvation conditioned on and accomplished by Christ ALONE.

**FAITH** is öthe SUBSTANCE of things hoped forö. **Until** we have been given the right SUBSTANCE of öthings to hope forö, we do not have God-given FAITH.

**The** second öfaithö is inward (subjective) faith. **“FAITH** is the EVIDENCE of things not seen.ö **The** Gospel reveals what sinners are commanded to öhope forö. **Then**, in regeneration, under the Gospel, the Spirit of God ögivesö faith. **This** is God-given faith. **It opposes** the öfaithö which we all have by nature. **We all** believe SOMETHING. **We all** believe in SOMEONE (by nature). **But**, we do not believe in the SOMETHING and on the SOMEONE örevealedö in the Gospel.

Let's take a look at these two FAITHS as they are IDENTIFIED and DISTINGUISHED in the scriptures. Let me tell what we are going to see. We will see the (first) FAITH to be the SOURCE of (spiritual) life. We will see the (second) FAITH to be the EVIDENCE of that life.

**“The just shall live by faith.”** This (literally) reads, **“The just shall live *OUT OF* faith”**. They will live *OUT OF* (the) TRUTH, as opposed to (the) LIE. They will live *OUT OF* the ðincorruptible word of Godö. The TRUTH is the SUBSTANCE of the ðthingsö that God commands sinners to ðhope forö. And it is the SOURCE of the life which the JUSTIFIED shall be given.

Look at 1 Peter 1: 23-25 **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.**

**24 ¶ For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:**

**25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” EXPLAIN!**

What makes the TRUTH the TRUTH? What DISTINGUISHES the TRUTH from the LIE? The LIE will (always) point sinners INWARD to something found IN THEM as that which makes the (real) difference between saved and lost. The TRUTH (always) points sinners OUTWARD, to Christ alone (His Righteousness imputed) as that which makes the difference.

Look back at Romans 1: 16a-17a **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;**

**17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith:”**

The TRUTH (always) reveals ðthe righteousness of Godö. I.e. It ALWAYS reveals how God is just to justify ungodly sinners on the basis of Christ's righteousness imputed ALONE. And, (this) TRUTH always confronts the self-righteousness of men. By nature we are all looking WITHIN (our obedience, our reformation, our character/conduct, our faith) for at least some part of our acceptance with God.

The self-righteousness of men has always stood in opposition to the FAITHFULNESS of Christ.

Look at Habakkuk 2: 4 **“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”**

As you can see, this is the Old Testament reference to our statement, **“The just shall live by faith.”** The soul LIFTED UP is the soul lifted up in pride, in self-righteousness, in the *“works”* of his own hands. **It is** the soul imagining himself/herself in the favor of God by something found IN THEM.

The soul LIFTED UP is the soul who is ignorant of Christ. **They** are ignorant of His FAITHFULNESS. **They** are ignorant of His Righteousness as that ALONE which enables God to justify ungodly sinners.

The soul LIFTED UP is the soul *“going about”* to establish a righteousness of their own in opposition to the Righteousness of God.

**THAT** soul (which is all of us by nature) *“is not upright IN HIM.”* **They** are not *“upright”* in Christ. **THAT** soul imagines himself *“upright”* by something (other than) HIM, or (in addition) to HIM, but NOT by Him ALONE.

**But**, the JUSTIFIED are those who are delivered from their OWN *“uprightness”* INTO the ONE *“uprightness”* they find in Christ ALONE. **They** are those delivered from their own obedience; their own *“faith.”* **The** JUSTIFIED are those who *“shall live by HIS (Christ’s) faith.”* **Christ’s** FAITHFULNESS is the SOURCE of the (spiritual) life the JUSTIFIED MUST and SHALL be given. **The** JUSTIFIED are those who will live *“OUT OF”* the *“faith”* of the Son of God.

Look at Galatians 2: 20 **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”**

**“I live by the faith (the FAITHFULNESS) of the Son of God.”** **Christ’s** FAITHFULNESS to do what His Father sent Him to do is the Gospel. **It is** the LIGHT that reveals the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **It is** all that Christ has done to make it right for God to eternally bless those sinners He was given.

**Let’s** take a few moments to consider Christ’s FAITHFULNESS.

Look at Hebrews 3: 1-2a **“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him,”**

**Christ** was FAITHFUL to fulfill the TRUST His Father placed in Him from eternity. **The** Father entrusted His (redemptive) glory to Christ.

**Look at John 17: 1 “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:**

**The Father entrusted the (complete) salvation of His elect to Christ.**

**Look at John 17: 2 “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**

**Christ was FAITHFUL to ðfinish the work His Father gave Him to doö.**

**Look John 17ö 3-4 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**

**4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”**

**In the language of Daniel 9, which prophesied of Christø work, Christ was FAITHFUL to ðmake an end of sin and bring in everlasting righteousnessö. He was FAITHFUL to save every sinner He was given. He was FAITHFUL to honor His Fatherø glory as a Just God and Savior. And, Christ was FAITHFUL to pay the debt He obligated Himself to in eternity.**

**Look at Philemon 17-19a ðIf thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.**

**18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;**

**19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it.”**

**Although this is language spoken by Paul to Philemon concerning his runaway slave (Onesimus), its importance is as the language of a Surety. Explain!**

**Paul said, ðThe life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.” I.e. He saw Christø FAITHFULNESS as the SOURCE of his (spiritual) life. And, he saw anything short of that understanding to be a DENIAL of grace, a FRUSTRATION of grace.**

**Look at Galatians 2: 21 “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”**

**I do not FRUSTRATE ðthe grace of Godö. It means: I do not disesteem or seek to nullify ðgraceö. I.e. I do not disesteem the salvation that is conditioned on Christ ALONE. I do not DISESTEEM the FAITHFULNESS of Christ to put away sin and establish the ONE Righteousness by which God (freely) justifies every elect sinner.**

**I do** I not seek to nullify the salvation that Christ ALONE has accomplished for those He was given.

**The JUSTIFIED** ðshall liveö. **They** will be GIVEN life. **And**, Christøð ðfaithö (His faithfulness) is the SOURCE of that life. **And**, THIS is the ðfaithö that believers are exhorted to ðcontendö for.

**Look at Jude 1: 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”**

**Look at Philippians 1: 27 “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”**

**The Incarnate Word** (who is declared in the spoken/preached word) is the SOURCE of (spiritual) life. **The JUSTIFIED** will live *OUT OF* ðfaithö. **They** will live *OUT OF* that which always reveals ðthe righteousness of Godö. **Faith**, (the body of truth; the revelation of Christ and His Righteousness; the Gospel), is the SOURCE of (spiritual) life. **“Faith is the *substance* of things hoped for.”**

**Look back at Hebrews 11: 1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**

**The SECOND** ðfaithö (ðfrom faith TO FAITHö) is just as necessary, just as VITAL, not as the SOURCE of life, but as the EVIDENCE of it. **“The** righteousness of Godö is revealed *OUT OF* the Gospel that declares it and *INTO* the FAITH which receives it and rests in it for all of salvation.

**It is** this SECOND ðfaithö which gives EVIDENCE that sinners are alive (spiritually). **I.e.** **They** will ðliveö *OUT OF* the ðfaithö which declares Christ. **And**, they will live *INTO* the ðfaithö which TOTALLY depends upon Christ for ALL of salvation.

**Look at Hebrews 11: 6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”**

**You** cannot ðpleaseö God except you be IN (the) truth. **You** must ðbelieve that He isö. **This** is MORE than just believing that ðgodö EXISTS (that there is a ðgodö). **To** ðbelieve that He isö is to believe that He is who HE says He is.

**It is** to believe who THIS WORD says He is. **It is** to believe what this word says DISTINGUISHES Him from idols. **It is** to believe that He is a Just God and a Savior.

**You** CANNOT ðpleaseö God while believing otherwise. **You** CANNOT ðpleaseö God while believing THE lie (THE lie that opposes THE truth). **You** CANNOT ðpleaseö God while believing ðanother gospelö. **To believe** God you have to be under the Gospel that IDENTIFIES and DISTINGUISHES Him from idols. **“He that cometh to God must believe that he is.”**

**And**, you cannot ðpleaseö Him except you believe (except you have embraced) the Gospel; except you are finding all your confidence before God in Christø doing and dying ALONE.

**Christ** sent His disciples forth to preach the Gospel. **Look** at Mark 16: 15-16 **“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”**

**Believing** the Gospel, believing on the Son is EVIDENCE that a sinner HAS life. **Their** believing is not the SOURCE of that life. **It is**, rather, the EVIDENCE that he/she has been GIVEN life.

**Look** at John 3: 36 **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”**

**The** JUSTIFIED are those who will be GUIDED to Christ. **They** will be ðguided into this truth by the Spirit of truthö.

**Look** at John 16: 13-15 ðHowbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

**14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

**15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”**

**The JUSTIFIED are those who are SANCTIFIED (set apart) by THIS truth.**

Look at John 17: 15-17 **“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.**

**16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**

**17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”**

**The JUSTIFIED are those who are delivered from ðthe evilö. **What** evil?**

**The JUSTIFIED are those SANTIFIED (set apart) in this world by the TRUTH. They are SET APART by the Gospel they believe, God they worship, the Christ they serve, and the righteousness they rest in for all of salvation.**

**The JUSTIFIED are GIVEN ðfaithö. **“Faith”** is imparted to them in regeneration. **This** ðfaithö is EVIDENCE that sinners are JUSTIFIED. **It is** not the SOURCE or CAUSE of the JUSTIFICATION, but the EVIDENCE. **And,** it is through THIS ðfaithö that the Justified BEGIN to have peace with the true and living God.**

**Look at Romans 5: 1-2 **“Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:****

**2 **By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”****

**The Justified BEGIN to have peace with THE TRUE AND LIVING God through the FAITH they are given in regeneration. **And,** it is through THIS ðfaithö that believers CONTINUE to have peace with God.**

**Look at Hebrews 12: 1-3 **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,****

**2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**3 **For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”****

**The JUSTIFIED are those who have been delivered from looking WITHIN for confidence. **The JUSTIFIED are those who look to Christ ALONE and have NO confidence ðin the fleshö.****



**“The righteousness of God is revealed OUT OF faith and INTO faith.ö It is revealed OUT OF the FAITH that declares Christ’s righteousness imputed ALONE as the only way God can be just and justifier. The Word of Christ (Gospel) is the SOURCE of (spiritual) life. It is revealed INTO the FAITH that rests in Christ’s righteousness ALONE for all of salvation. This FAITH is the EVIDENCE of (spiritual) life.**

**Are you among the JUSTIFIED? Are you öliving BY FAITHö? If you are öabiding in Christ, you are.**

**Look at 1 John 2: 28-29 “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**

**29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”**

**“The just shall live by faith.ö**

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