

The Foundations of Life Series, Part 8

Faith Toward God.

Matthew 16:18-19

18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock* I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.*

19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Accepting and receiving Jesus as Saviour and Lord is the entrance into a Divine Covenant with the Godhead. It comes from a Revelation of Who He is. The God of the Bible becoming personally Accepted and Recognized by the sinner. Then That Decision produces a Necessary Response called Repentance, which then plants within each believer that mustard seed of Faith. That Faith God builds upon and increases day after day as God nourishes us through fellowship with Him and his people. Then feeds us with His Word and quenches the thirsting of our Soul through the work of the Holy Spirit. This Divine Faith brings about a divine spiritual birth called, " The New Birth ". That birth is a process which continues through the waters of baptism, and our faithful response to His Word and Covenant relationship with us.

Initial Steps Necessary to Receive the New Birth Experience

1. Realize that you are a sinner and there is a Holy God.
2. Realize Sin has a penalty.
3. Realize that God loves us and has already paid our sin penalty.
4. Realize we receive salvation as a gift.
5. Receive Salvation now.

Make that decision in response to the Spirit of God's leading. Let Jesus Christ have control of your life and make Him Lord, by relinquishing your Lordship and allowing Him to be Lord of all. That way you will become Justified By Faith as God takes that first step of Faith and builds upon that Faith today and forever. This develops through our obediently following God's Word into water baptism and being not just filled but baptized in the Holy Spirit. Then going onto the Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit as we develop our spirit man, so that we can be a witness of Christ and His resurrection.

Romans 10:9-13

9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

10For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

11The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.'

12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

13For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Romans 5:1-5

1Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access* to this grace in which we stand; and we* boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.*

3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*

5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

We are Acquitted or Justified By Faith.

Legal term meaning 'acquittal,' a declaration that someone is in the right. Sinners are in the wrong before God. They have broken his laws, they deserve punishment, but on the cross Christ took their place. Now, when they put their trust in Christ, they are declared to be in the right, acquitted, justified. The cross shows God to be just, not simply in the fact that he forgives, but in the way he forgives. To pass over sins would show mercy, but it would not show justice. Forgiveness by the way of the cross shows both (Rom. 3:25-26).

The Shaw Pocket Bible Handbook, Walter A. Elwell, Editor, (Harold Shaw Publ., Wheaton, IL; 1984), pp. 351-352

Jesus is our defense attorney before the heavenly throne. If you are a believer in Christ no matter what accusation Satan might throw at you, Jesus can respond with, "Your Honor its covered by the Blood . They've repented and I've applied my blood to the door of their hearts. I'm now their Lord and Saviour, and even when they stumble I'm their to get them back on track. I'll even carry them on my back like I did that old cross, just so that they might share with me the joys of so great salvation and eternal fellowship with Me forever. " Yes. Jesus wants to do that for me and you today. He wants to make a way for us, a way to the cross and a ladder to heaven.

Because we have responded correctly to God, He justifies or acquits us of all done wrong. Not because we deserve to be, but because our Heavenly Father loves us and wishes none to perish, but all to have eternal life. Our godly sorrow and positive response to God's love gift at the cross, has made us a New Creation in Christ. All things have become new, He has taken sin far from us taking upon it himself so that we could have relationship with Him for eternity as part of His Bride-The Church.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

15And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,* we know him no longer in that way.*

17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.*

20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Through Faith We Become the Righteousness of God.

Romans 10:3

3For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they have not submitted to God's righteousness.

We need to take upon ourselves His righteousness which He imputes to us through Faith in Him. His Character within will give us the ability to make right decisions, and bear witness of His right motives and stay on a path of righteousness which will not deviate to the left or the right. Instead, it will lead us through the valleys, over the mountains into the promises of God. Not choosing the easy way out, or the most circuitous route. Rather, listening to Him and facing up to life's difficulties with confidence in Him. Acknowledging that he is, " Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness. Part of God's very essence living and breathing through our lives is the only way we can put aside our selfishness and rely upon His indwelt Righteousness.

Righteousness is an *attribute of moral purity belonging to God alone (John 17:25)*. It is He alone who is truly righteous. No one in the world is righteous in the eyes of the Lord, that is, except the Christian. We are counted righteous in the eyes of God when we receive Jesus by faith (Phil. 3:9). Our righteousness is based on what Jesus did on the cross. The righteousness that was Christ's is counted to us. We, then, are seen as righteous in the eyes of God. Though we are actually worthy of damnation, we are made righteous (Is. 61:10) by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. As a result, will spend eternity in the presence of the holy, pure, loving, kind, gentle, and righteous God. Our righteousness. *Source unknown*

Righteousness is a Precious Commodity.

Alexis de Tocqueville

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning, and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!" *Source unknown*

Hosea 10:12

12Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

We need the Lord to rain righteousness upon us as Hosea mentions in this passage of scripture. It is the only way we can stay immersed in His presence and be filled with His righteousness. Otherwise, we can become like so many whom are tossed to and fro having a form of godliness but denying through their lives the Lord Jesus Christ. This world needs us to sow seeds of righteousness. Whether in charity or kindness toward others, or any of the characteristics of the righteousness of God that shows His Holy and perfect nature. If we don't, this world will become calloused by sin and not aware of His Glory as God's Church doesn't allow the flame of the Holy Spirit to capture our hearts and minds. Lord send us a revival again. Full of power, full of passion for YOU.