



## Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



### Results of Justification by faith

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#### Introduction:

**Romans 5:1-5** - We talked two weeks ago about being justified by faith. We have a legal standing because of what Jesus did. Our sin and unrighteousness is debited to Christ and His righteousness is credited to us. God looks at us just as if we had never sinned.

#### I. The blessings of our justification

As Paul goes on in his letter to the Romans, he speaks about being justified and we find him enumerating several results of such a standing. Paul accomplishes two purposes in listing the blessings of being justified. First, he tells us how wonderful it is to be a follower of Christ and the blessings we have here right now as we live for Christ and honor Him in our lives. Secondly, he reminds us of the eternal blessings that are in the future in heaven.

#### II. Peace with God

Peace with God is something that everyone needs. One of the first indications of being justified is that we come to a place of peace with God. Although we don't often think of it, or are unwilling to admit it, before we are justified by faith, we are in rebellion to God's ways, to God's will, to God's work. The law and our sin condemn us so there is no peace with God.

When we are justified by faith, we are declared righteous and the law cannot condemn us or bring us to a declaration of war. Once we come to God in faith, we surrender our will to His ways, to His will, to His work and because of the position of being

justified, we have peace with God. **Ephes. 2:14** - **For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.**

#### III. We have Access to stand in grace

The Jews were kept from God's presence by the veil in the temple. Only the high priest could enter into the holy of holies once a year on the Day of Atonement for the sin of the people. The Gentiles certainly were kept from God's presence by a wall. Any Gentile who went beyond the wall would be killed. With Jesus' death, the veil was torn and the wall of petition was broken down. Through Jesus Christ, we have access to God. We stand in grace not in law. Justification has to do with our standing, sanctification with our state.

The word "access" defines our ability to come before the King of Kings. It means to have entrance to the king through the favor of another. Because of Jesus' work to redeem, forgive and justify us, we have entrance to the King. That is a tremendous blessing. To have a one-on-one audience with one who has authority, power and the ability to meet every need you might ever have is incredible!

#### IV. Rejoice in hope

Peace with God takes care of the past. We no longer have to be worried over past failures, past sins, past blunders; He will not hold our sin against us. Access to God defines the present. We can come to Him at anytime for help with the daily troubles and anxieties of life and He will be there to support, provide, direct, comfort, heal, forgive and listen. To rejoice in hope speaks of the future. We have a future. We have hope. When we die, we don't just cease to exist. There is a future life beyond what we see here and now. There is a heaven where all righteousness exists. One day we will share in His glory. One day we will hear Him declare, **“Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.”**

I have talked to many people throughout my lifetime. There are countless numbers of people who are alive but have no hope. They do not have the assurance of salvation or of their eternal destiny. They do not have the joy in the hope of the resurrection. They do not have the joy in the hope of forgiveness. It is a terrible thing not to have the assurance of hope. Those who are justified share in the joy of hope for the future.

#### V. Rejoice in tribulation

Just because we are justified does not mean that we will not have difficulties and trials here in this life. It does give us a reason for rejoicing in the tribulation. All too often followers of Christ wonder why they have troubles, why they suffer, or struggle, or have trials of faith or tribulation. It is in the tribulations of life that the life and character of Christ can be separated from the death and ugliness of the flesh. The value and beauty of life is seen and measured by what is inside. The outside is simply a shell to contain that which is truly alive and valuable. Rachel Lescelius said it well in a recent conversation, *“If we lived on a bed of ease we'd be nothing but fluff.”*

In Paul's day, a triublum was a heavy piece of timber with spikes on it and it was used for threshing grain. It was drawn over the grain and it separated the wheat from the chaff. It was a process of separating that which was no longer useful from that which was useful. It was a difficult process but it was necessary to have access to that which was

useful and beneficial. The end result justified the process that was involved.

As we face tribulations and we depend on God's grace, the trials only purify us and help us get rid of the chaff.. For the believer, trials work for us and not against us. No amount of suffering for the Lord can separate us from Him. Instead, the trials should bring us closer to the Lord and cause the character of Christ to be formed within us. Suffering builds Christian character. There are some things that God can only accomplish in our lives through suffering. The word “experience” in verse 4 means character that has been proved. The sequence is tribulation, patience, proven character, hope.

**Philip. 4:4 - Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!**

The natural response to tribulation is to question, to wonder, to think this isn't fair. We begin to believe that God is punishing us or He is angry with us or this is happening because there is something we have or have not done. When you experience tribulation, know that God loves you. He is aware of what is happening. He is not permitting this to destroy you but to perfect His character within you. The end result justifies the process of separation for usefulness. If you are patient in the process, the character will be proven and there will be joy in hope. God would not love us very much if He never permitted tribulation in our lives. Scripture talks about suffering. It talks about trials of our faith. It talks about the challenges of living for Christ in a broken, condemned world that is under the dominion of sin and its curse of death.

**James 1:2-4 - Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.**

When we experience such suffering, we should not waste our sorrows, but learn from them and ask God what it is that He might be trying to teach us through that experience. It is the inner experience of His love that brings us joy as we go through the tribulations. Faith, hope, and love all combine to help us exercise patience in the trials of life and patience makes it

possible for us to grow in character and become mature followers of Christ.

#### **VI. The Holy Spirit puts love in our hearts**

The justified follower of Christ has the Holy Spirit, the helper, the comforter, the one called along side us to put God's love in our hearts.

We cannot love the way God loves. God loves without condition. God loves regardless of failure, fault, neglect or any other human condition. We often love with conditions. "If then" statements... if you believe like me, if you do this, act this way, speak this way, then I will love you. How we need the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's love!

#### **Conclusion:**

There are a number of steps we could take in our spiritual journey today. Maybe the step you need to take is to ask God to justify you by trusting Him alone as your means of salvation and rightness with God. Perhaps you need to step into the peace that God has for you. Perhaps you need to rejoice in the hope of your future and not get stuck in your past. Perhaps you have not been rejoicing in tribulation and you need to take a step there. You need to stop asking for God to remove the tribulation but instead allow Him to perfect His character within you through the tribulation. You know what step you need to take today to apply these truths to your life. Let me urge you to do so.