




# THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTIFICATION

the bondage of the will, the freedom in Christ



by Zack Rosiere

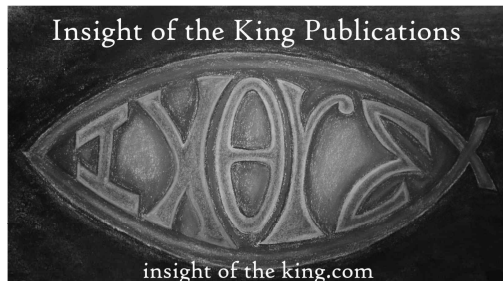


# The Principles of Justification

the bondage of the will, the freedom in Christ

Volume I

Zack Rosiere



April, MMXVII

Principles of Justification:  
the bondage of the will, the freedom in Christ

Copyright © 2017 by Insight of the King Publications

Published by Insight of the King Publications

Front cover artist- “Kokitom/Shutterstock.com”

Front and back cover background-  
“Midiwaves/Shutterstock.com”

Front and back cover and interior vector designs- “Romanova  
Ekaterina/Shutterstock.com”

Printed and bound by DiggyPOD

First printing 2017

Printed in the United States of America

Trade paperback ISBN: 978-1-947266-00-1

# Table of Contents



Introduction .....	2
Concerning Justification .....	4
Concerning Justification of the human Spirit .....	10
Concerning Faith .....	15
Concerning the Law .....	24
Concerning Grace .....	31
Concerning the Bondage of the Will and Original Sin.....	35
Concerning Evangelical Free Will: .....	44
Concerning Predestination .....	52
Concerning Philosophy and human reason .....	56
The Process of Obtaining Freedom in Christ .....	61
Conclusion .....	89
Faith scriptures to meditate on .....	90

# Introduction



he topic of salvation, especially in America today, has seemed to have lost its excitement. Most everybody has heard of John 3:16 and most everybody knows, even if they don't all believe it, the way to heaven in thru Jesus.

I have been studying the sixteenth century reformation, and it has opened my eyes to how magnificent and wonderful salvation is. It is a topic that should never get old, it should never lose its excitement. It should be a topic that is so dear to us, we are willing to give our life for the opportunity to proclaim this good news. This was how the reformers felt in the sixteenth century.

Thousands of people died so we could know the Truth of God's Word and His great love for us. The reformation allowed us to freely open a bible in our own language and read for ourselves how much God loves us.

In God's eyes, this is the most important thing ever. It is so important, in fact, He gave His only Son to be the final sacrifice for sin. He made it so we could be partakers of God's divine nature, (2Pet 1:4). He delivered us out of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son, (Col 1:13), so we could have salvation. He made the cross the climax of all the ages, from eternity past to eternity future. He made the death and resurrection of His Son the most important thing that has happened and will ever happen.

There is nothing deeper than what Jesus did for us on the cross, and there is not a greater love displayed than His death and administration of His new covenant to us and for us.

It is my objective to stir up a fire inside you that can never be quenched; to develop a yearning and a desire for Jesus that can never be shaken; to promote a craving for God and His Word that you can't live without.

I want you to be so satisfied in Jesus, that nothing else  
in this life even comes close to the delight  
and enjoyment you have  
with Him.



## Concerning Justification

**J**ustification is the first step in Salvation. To be justified means to be declared righteous, to be forgiven of sin, reconciled with the Father and pronounced and judged as in right standing with God.

Salvation, σωτηρία, soteria, is comprised of three main categories:

1. Justification
2. Sanctification
3. Glorification

A whole book could be written on soteria, but my main focus in this first volume, will be on justification; explaining the effects of righteousness leading to sanctification and eventually glorification. It is important for the Christian to understand the categories of salvation, because in a misunderstanding of justification and sanctification, there has been serious theological and doctrinal errors in understanding the connection between our works and the work of Christ.

To be clear up front, there is no such thing as a good work without the Holy Spirit. That is a fundamental statement which has helped me understand my role as it compares to God's role. Yes, we can do good works, but not before we are made righteous, and not apart from God. Man is incapable of performing any good work on his own, and even after one is made righteous, as Jesus said of Himself, **"I can do nothing, but the Father working within Me, He does the work"**. Jesus then relates this to us when He says, **"I am the Vine and you are the branches. Apart from me**



**you can do nothing.”** Therefore, it is evident, man apart from God cannot perform a good work.

The whole of the Catholic religion, many other denominations of Christianity, and the Jewish religion have based their doctrine on justification by good works; but we know from Eph 2:8-9, one is made righteous by the free gift of God's grace thru faith in Jesus; not a result of our works but only by the work of Jesus on the cross can one be justified.

So then, why are there so many scriptures focused on “good works”, seemingly giving the idea of justification by our good works? This is where understanding the difference between Justification and Sanctification must be established. Many religions have blended justification and sanctification into one process to be made righteous. But this is incorrect. Although they are both steps in soteria, there is a certain order and function that each category of salvation has.

From the 4<sup>th</sup> century, starting with Pelagius, up until now, justification has been widely misunderstood. Pelagianism does not believe human nature and the spirit of man was tainted by original sin. It is the belief that all men are good by nature, and have the free will to choose good or evil on their own. And thru their own good works, assisted by God's grace, man can live a sinless life, and attain justification thru their own merits. This started the doctrine of grace-assisted good works leading to justification. Which, if this were true, means the work of Christ wasn't good enough; that Jesus giving Himself as the sacrifice for sin didn't remit sin, but only aided a person thru the process of justification. To say righteousness still comes thru one's works is to say Christ died needlessly, (Gal 2:21). This is so wrong, I don't even like talking about it, but it must be said to explain the error people have had for nearly 1,700 years. This wrong thinking started a doctrine in which enabled good works toward justification. They considered Jesus, but thought they needed to add their works to the work of Jesus to obtain



righteousness. These doctrines taught justification as a process of working toward sinlessness. This process was made possible by God's grace, which freed the will, but then it was up to the individual and his good works to be saved. Grace, free will, and good works collaborate together to bring one into righteousness. Again, this type of thinking is selfish and blasphemes the work of Christ.

So, if this is so wrong, how, and why did this doctrine even come about? My opinion is this doctrine has blended the three parts of salvation: justification, sanctification and glorification, into one. When instead, each part must be treated separately, and one must understand how there is an order, and how each part builds upon the other.

For instance, if we look at something Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) wrote about justification, we will see his thinking was partially on the right track, but he associated it to the wrong category of salvation. This misunderstanding, which may seem small, in reality, makes the work of Christ of no effect. If you take his same theology and assign his thinking to the appropriate category of salvation, instead of deeming it all to justification, it makes his theology more accurate. This is rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Thomas Aquinas wrote:

*“Man’s will should be prepared by God thru grace. Humans could do nothing to cause grace: the gift of grace surpasses every other nature. And so it is impossible that a creature should cause grace. The human will was involved in the decision-making process, but it was the grace of God that drove the will.”*

*Following conversion, which was the result of God’s grace, the individual sought to do good works, and God assisted this endeavor through His cooperating grace. Then, if the individual persisted in doing good works, he would eventually attain glory, thru the inner regeneration of the soul.*

So far, I would agree with Aquinas, because he hasn't associated this process to any certain category of salvation, but this is where he starts to error:

*“There are five effects of grace in us: firstly, the healing of the soul; secondly, willing the good; thirdly, the efficacious performance of the good willed; fourthly, perseverance in the good; fifthly, the attainment of glory”*

Thomas associated this five step process as the path to justification. This thinking puts all the work on the man, leaving him virtually helpless, trying to gain righteousness thru his own merits; with only the help of Jesus to give him a jump start at the beginning. It teaches that we are left on our own to perform good works for our-selves.

The correct way to look at good works is, it is not the good works of a person that makes him righteous, but the good work of Jesus on the cross. Even after conversion, any good work performed is not done thru the power of the individual, but thru the power of the Holy Spirit. **We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them, (Eph 2:10).** Even after being made righteous, it is still not us who does the good work, but the Father working thru us. Jesus Himself said **“I can of My own self do nothing, it is the Father dwelling within Me who does the work.”, (Jn 5:19, 30, 14:10, 8:28).** So if we take the five effects of grace laid out by Aquinas, associate them in the correct category, and assume it is not us doing the work, but the Holy Spirit working thru us, then this thinking is corrected.

1. The healing of the soul (to be completely accurate, it is our spirit that is made perfect in righteousness, not the soul. The soul must be transformed by the renewing of the mind to God's word)

2. Willing of the good (once we are made righteous, our soul starts to learn the things of God and becomes sanctified thru the fruit of the Spirit. Our soul begins to will the good works prepared for him by the Father)
3. The efficacious performance of the good willed. (This is the fruit of the Spirit resulting in sanctification. The beneficial effects of the good works performed by the power of the Holy Spirit resulting in sanctification, Rom 6:22.)
4. Perseverance in the good (having done all to stand. Stand therefore... Eph 6:13, Col 1:9-12. Again we don't do this to be made righteous, we do it because we are righteous, resulting in sanctification.)
5. The attainment of glory (this is the final step in salvation, the adoption as sons, the redemption of the body, the glorification in Jesus, (Rom 8:23). This is our hope in Jesus after we are made righteous, not something we do to be made righteous.)

This type of thinking is what has blinded Christians and kept them from knowing the Truth, and how much Jesus loves us. Christians have not rightly divided the Truth and misunderstood the meaning of salvation, and created false doctrine as a result. Even though some of these men were so close to the Truth, like Thomas Aquinas, but as you can see, if not properly discerned, can lead to devastatingly wrong thinking, and the blasphemy of the work of Jesus.

It is the misunderstanding of the three categories of salvation which has created so much error in the church. Sanctification is not justification. Justification is an immediate replacement of the human spirit being made new by the Holy Spirit and faith in Jesus Christ. Sanctification only happens as a result of justification. It is a combination of God's grace working in a person's soul to separate them from sin and this fallen world. It is the

continual work of shaping the soul to be in conformity to the newly created, perfected spirit, cleansed only by the blood of Jesus. Sanctification cannot be achieved without the Holy Spirit working in the new spirit. Sanctification is a life-long process only achieved thru the working together of the fallen soul, the newly created spirit, and the Holy Spirit given by grace thru faith. This is where so many people get confused. The bible is full of conditional commandments, "if you do this, this will be the result." This can be misunderstood to believe our justification is based on our works, when these commandments are actually focusing on the sanctification of the soul after a person has become justified by grace, thru faith in Jesus. And it is not even the result of our good works, but the good works of the Holy Spirit working in us to bear fruit and result in sanctification, (Rom 6:22); setting a Christian apart from the sin of the world, and preparing the soul for the final stage of salvation, which is the glorification of the body, and the unification of the body of Christ, glorified together in Him.

As described above, there are three categories to salvation. I like to describe and associate these three parts to mankind's being. We are a spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body. Each one of these parts of our being align with the steps to salvation.

1. Justification of the human spirit
2. Sanctification of the human soul
3. Glorification of the physical body



## Concerning Justification of the Human Spirit



Each of these three categories builds on the other, and they must build in this order. Justification is usually what is meant when somebody says they are saved. Justification is the declaration of the Father pronouncing His righteousness on our spirit. It is the act of His grace poured out on us, resulting in our sins being forgiven and redeemed from the corruption and effects of sin, further resulting in a perfect, newly created spirit. Justification is a free gift of God's grace accepted by faith in Jesus, (Eph 2:8-9). It has nothing to do with our works, but only the work of Jesus paying the price and accepting the wrath and the judgment of God for our sin on Himself, (Is 53:4-6). This is the first step to salvation, the forgiveness of sins and the only way to the Father. Thru Jesus, He has reconciled us into His family, giving us eternal happiness and joy, living forever with Him.

*How does one obtain justification if it is not something earned?*

It is given as a free gift thru the Grace of God by faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:24- being **justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 4:16- For this reason *it is* **by faith**, in order that *it may be* in **accordance with grace**, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Ephesians 2:5- even when we were dead in our transgressions, He made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**).

There is one important factor we must understand when it comes to justification. We are made righteous by Him and Him alone. It does not have anything to do with our works or merit. The gift of righteousness is by His grace and it is in Christ alone. One might argue that we have one work, the work of faith; but as we progress in this study, we will find even our faith is not a work. Righteousness is not in any way conditional on our merits or works.

Paul explains this in his epistles to the Romans and Galatians. He states in **Rom 4:3** and **Gal 3:6**- **Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.** Why does Paul go all the way back to Abraham to talk about justification? Isn't justification a new covenant topic? No, justification and reconciliation with the Father is the whole purpose of God's plan. And the plan of God started, not in the garden with Adam and Eve, but before the foundation of the world, (Eph 1:4, 1 Peter 1:2, 20). Before the world was ever created, He knew man would sin, and He knew and planned that Jesus would be our Savior. God wanted a family He could love and He wanted a family that would willingly love Him and choose Him. God gave each one of us a free will to choose Him. We will talk more about the nature of free will later. So, when God created us, He knew we would sin, but it was the redemption of His family thru His Son, Jesus, which formed the bond of reconciliation, so the promise could and would never be broken. This is why the covenant and promise of righteousness is in Christ; this way it is not conditional on our behavior or actions, but only in Jesus. The conditions of the covenant is between the Father and Jesus so the bond can never be broken or separated. Thru this unbreakable covenant Jesus has with the Father, we are now partakers of this same covenant thru the blood of Jesus, (2Peter 1:4, Heb 3:1, 14). This makes the bond sure and true. If it

were conditional on our actions, the covenant wouldn't last a day, and no one would qualify for righteousness. Of course, God knew this and what is amazing is He embraced these faults of ours, and chose for us to participate in this plan of redemption and reconciliation with Him.

Now, back to our original question- why does Paul go back to Abraham to explain justification? Abraham was the man God chose to be the avenue in which Jesus, the Messiah, would be born into this physical world. God granted the inheritance, the reconciliation of salvation, by means of a promise; that the Messiah would be born into this world thru his lineage. God made a covenant with Abraham that thru his seed all nations would be blessed. The promise of inheritance wasn't made to Abraham or to all his descendants, but only to one person, the Seed, the Messiah Jesus Christ. And it is by grace thru faith that the promise of inheritance is then given to all who believe, (Gal 3:14, 16, 18-19, 22, 29, Rom 4:16). Abraham believed in this promise and was fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform, (Rom 4:21). It was this faith in the Messiah in which righteousness was then credited to Abraham, (Rom 4:22, Gal 3:6, Gen 15:5-6, Heb 11:8-10, 17-19). So, justification is a bible topic, not just a New Testament topic. However, no one was actually made righteous until Jesus came to this earth and became the sacrifice for sin. And through His death, He paid the price for sin and bore the wrath of God on Himself. Therefore, it is stated, "Abraham was credited righteousness". At the time, Abraham believed in the Messiah, he was set apart and his heavenly account was credited with righteousness, but this righteousness could not yet be administered to him, because no one could be justified until Jesus performed His work on the cross and was raised from the dead. This explains why we see Abraham and other Old Testament saints in a holding place in Sheol. The bible calls it Abraham's bosom, (Lk 16:22). This was a holding place for all those who believed in the Messiah. Their faith was credited to them as righteousness,



but it could not be given until the price for sin was paid on the cross, and not only the cross, but the resurrection of Jesus had to take place in order for Him to become our High Priest, able to administer the gift of righteousness to all who believe, (Rom 4:25).

Righteousness is a universal promise to all who believe in Jesus. Jew or Gentile, whether it is faith in the coming Messiah, like that of the old testament saints, or faith in Jesus who had already come, and will come again, as in the case for all new testament believers. We all qualify for the promise because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, (Rom 3:23). Therefore, all can be made righteous by grace thru faith in Jesus, (Eph 2:8).

The gift of grace is available to all who believe, not only those who have a predetermined destiny to salvation. We will discuss the subject of predestination at a later time.

John 3:14-16- <sup>14</sup> “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> so that **whoever** believes will in Him have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Romans 4:16- For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed **to all the descendants**, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

John 1:12- But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

Titus 2:11- For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation **to all men**.

Romans 5:18–19- <sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. <sup>19</sup> For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

In order to finalize our discussion on justification,  
we must discuss what faith is, and  
the connection of faith  
and grace.



## Concerning Faith



here are some errors and misconceptions as to what faith actually is. The most important thing to remember is what faith is not. Faith is not a work. The instant we make faith a work, we start associating our merit, requiring our faith as a prerequisite to justification. Justification is a free gift, and accepting this free gift must also be free without any condition of merit. So then let us refer to the Scripture to define faith. How does one acquire faith?

*Answer: Thru the Spirit illuminated Word*

Romans 10:17- So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

It is not only hearing the Word with your physical ears, but understanding it with your heart. Jesus said- “those who have ears to hear let him hear.”, (Mk 4:9). The Greek word for hear is associated with obedience. It is the ability to hear and accept and receive what is being spoken. This is demonstrated in the following scriptures. Matthew 13:9-19- <sup>9</sup> “**He who has ears, let him hear.**” <sup>10</sup> And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. <sup>12</sup> “For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. <sup>13</sup> “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and **while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.**” <sup>14</sup> “In

their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, **'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;'** <sup>15</sup> FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.' <sup>16</sup> "But **blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.** <sup>17</sup> "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> "When anyone **hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.** This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

1 Thessalonians 2:13- For this reason we also constantly thank God that **when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it** not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you **who believe.**

By receiving the word of God into your heart, believing it is God speaking to you, and accepting what He says as final authority in your life, this word then performs its work and faith is enabled; giving the believer the ability to accept the free gift of grace.

Again, we must not view faith as a work or a merit in which we have earned. Consider faith as an avenue to God's grace; a portal opened by understanding and receiving His word, access to a power that is always available and never stops. Then, it takes the responsibility of faith as a work off of the individual, and humbles itself to God. Faith allows us, and gives us

the ability to think the way God thinks. It sparks our soul, our decision maker, to be able to choose God and His righteousness.

Faith, although it includes this, is not only believing or trusting in God. It is not something one can build up in himself and store as power. Instead we need to view faith as an opening into the things of God. A way of access into His grace. The ability to think the way God thinks, desire what God desires. When one has more faith, it is not that he contains more faith, but his access to God's grace is unhindered by the things of this world, and his ability to accept the grace of God is enabled. To increase your faith is simply putting aside any distractions and cares of this world and humbling yourself to God. The less we are hindered, the greater our faith or access to God's grace becomes. This is why in Jude it says, <sup>20</sup> **But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith,** praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> **keep yourselves** in the love of God, **waiting anxiously** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life, (Jude 20-21).

Notice it is not our faith being built up, but it is **on** our faith, building and strengthening ourselves, by praying in the Holy Spirit. Praying in tongues is a direct way to pray without any hindrance of the physical mind getting in the way; in which the entire time our soul should be focused on one thing, our hope in Jesus.

Take the example of the father who asked Jesus to heal his son. The son was demon possessed. He asked Jesus to help them, Mark 9:22-27- <sup>22</sup> "But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**" <sup>25</sup> **When Jesus saw that the people came running**

**together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, ... Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.**

Jesus helped the father's faith by rebuking the demon before the crowd could come and distract the father's faith. If Jesus would have waited, the crowd would have surrounded Him, and deprived the father's faith by the cares and distractions of this world.

Faith is not the work of believing, but the God given ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace; but from scripture we know faith doesn't magically appear. God set an immutable requirement in place before faith could be administered. He set the thing He exalted high above everything else. Something even above His Name, (Ps 138:2). He set His Word as a prerequisite to faith, (Rom 10:17). Only those who willingly hear and understand and obey His Word acquire faith.

I like to define faith like this:

*faith is the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture.*

Scripture also says in Hebrews 11:1- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Faith is the substance of our hope.** True hope, and our only hope, is in Jesus, (1 Tim 1:1). It is not in a new car, not a new house, not even the healing of our physical body, but only in Jesus. It is not wrong to say thru our hope in Jesus He will meet our needs and these physical things like a car or a house or physical healing might manifest in our life, but this is not our hope. These are the bi-products of our hope in Jesus. Just like the blessings of Abraham. The only blessing of Abraham is the promise of the Messiah, (Gal 3:14, 18,

29). Abraham's wealth was merely a bi-product of that blessing. Our hope is in Jesus. It is the eager expectation for the adoption as sons, the redemption of our body, glorified in Him, forever to be in Him, (Rom 8:23-25).

**Faith is the evidence of things not seen.** Paul is still talking about hope. Hope is not seen, (Rom 8:24), but faith, the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture, makes hope alive in our hearts, (Heb 10:35-11:1). Because of faith, I can have evidence of His grace on my life. We are not talking about physical evidence, at least not right away, although there can be a manifestation of physical evidence, but again, that is not our hope. This is the type of evidence you know and experience in your heart. It is not something your physical senses can notice. For instance, take joy as an example. John 15:11- "**These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

Psalms 16:11- You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is **fullness of joy**; In Your right hand there are **pleasures forever.**

Hebrews 10:34- For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and **accepted joyfully** the seizure of your property, **knowing** that you have for yourselves **a better possession and a lasting one.**

Even in tremendously hard times, like someone taking everything you own and bringing you to jail to torture and eventually kill you for being a Christian, this is about as bad as it can get. But even in a time like that, if your hope is in Jesus, and your heart is full of faith, (meaning your ability to believe in Jesus and your access to God's grace is unhindered), the joy of the Lord will come upon you and sustain you. There is a happiness inside in which nothing else in this world can ever come close to duplicating. This is the evidence of things not seen. Even if your life were to be taken and you were killed for the



Name of Jesus, it is not defeat, but victory in Christ, **for to depart and be with Christ is much better, (Phil 1:23), for to die is not to perish, but to be with Jesus forever, (Lk 21:16-19).** The evidence is not something physical, like a car or house, or something temporal in this world. It is an everlasting evidence, an evidence of our hope in Jesus. The minute you make faith into a work, as if it is by something you are doing by your own merits, if you expect a physical result as a confirmation of your faith, this thinking is wrong, selfish, self-centered, not Christ centered, and even has elements of witchcraft blended in with it.

Faith is not a work. It is the ability given by the Spirit illuminated Word of God to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace. It is by grace we are saved thru faith, not by the work of faith. We are not healed by the work of faith, but by the gift of grace thru faith in Jesus. To use faith as a work is a misuse of this ability. Faith is not meant to use solely apart from God's grace.

*Faith is meant to keep your focus on Jesus and nothing else.*

To use faith to get something temporal from God is a selfish use of faith, and will not result in anything. Faith gives a person the ability to connect this physical realm with the incorporeal things of God. It gives the person the ability to accept the free gift of grace in their corporeal life. I am not saying that sometimes this may result in a physical manifestation, but it will always result in spiritual fruit, and a treasure stored up in heaven. To demand it change something temporal is something we are not authorized to demand. Our focus should not be on how our faith can change our physical life. It should be focused on our hope in Jesus. **James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.** And this I propose, although I know it might

sound harsh, faith in the well-being and prosperity for yourself, and yourself alone, is a selfish motivation, seeking your own pleasure. Our focus should not be the temporal, but the hope in Jesus. Then the physical needs of this life will take care of themselves. Jesus said “<sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ <sup>32</sup> “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”, (Matthew 6:31-34).

*Our trust and complete reliance should be on God and on His Word, nothing else.*

Romans 4:20-21- <sup>20</sup> yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup> and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

We all have needs in this life, but if you start making those needs your hope, then all is lost. You have lost focus and you ask amiss because your trust is not directed toward God. No matter what our needs are, we must seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and God will take care of your physical needs of this life.

Psalms 37:4-5- <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

When you are delighting yourself in the Lord, abiding in Him and His Word abides in you, the desires of your heart start to look like His desires. The

desires of the heart are not selfish, but full of love for others, regarding others as more important than yourself.

Philippians 2:3- Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves;**

Come to God with a humble heart and humility of mind and fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is also able to perform.

1 Peter 5:5-7- <sup>5</sup> You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with **humility toward one another**, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT **GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE**. <sup>6</sup> Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, <sup>7</sup> **casting all your anxiety on Him**, because He cares for you.

Faith is the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture. It is the substance of our hope in Christ that does not disappoint, because at the appointed time Christ died for us, even when we were still helpless and under the hold of sin. And thru this amazing act of love, Jesus poured out His love on us and endured the cross, enabling the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and make us a new creation in Him, perfect and blameless without sin, (Rom 5:5-6).

Now that faith has been defined, let us insert this definition of faith into some familiar scripture to shed new light on the function of faith. These are a few verses I chose to put into the body of this document. There are quite a few more at the end of this paper to help us gain concept of what faith truly is.

Hebrews 11:17-18 - <sup>17</sup> By (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the

Scripture) Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; <sup>18</sup> *it was he* to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.”

Ephesians 3:17-18- <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture); *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

Ephesians 2:8-9- <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture); and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

And He said to her, “Daughter, (your ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.”

Mark 5:34



## Concerning the Law



e have defined what faith is, and we understand faith is not a work. Now we must consider what is meant in **Romans 3:28-**  
**For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**

To understand this, we must first understand why the law was given in the first place. A common misconception is that God first gave the law to see if man could follow it perfectly and in turn, be made righteous because of it. This thinking is nonsense, and makes it seem like God made a mistake and then had to change His plans. God knows the end from the beginning and every decision we will make, (Is 46:10, 25:1, 41:4, 48:3, Heb 6:17, 2Tim 1:9). Therefore, God knew man would sin and He knew the Law could not make anyone righteous. So, what was the purpose of the Law?

There are three purposes for the Law

1. To make sin apparent and lead us to Christ, (Gal 3:24, Rom 3:20, 5:13, 7:7).
2. To manifest Jesus in the flesh, (Jn 1:14, Gal 4:4, Rom 1:3).
3. To establish the guidelines and rules for righteousness, in order that Jesus could fulfill them, (Matt 5:17, Rom 3:31, Gal 3:19, Col 2:19).

The law was sent to bring a knowledge of sin, and to show people the need for a savior; for the Messiah to be made manifest in the earth; to establish a set of ordinances that had to be in place for Jesus to fulfill them and redeem us from sin and death. For without the Law, sin is not imputed, nevertheless,

sin reigned from Adam to Moses, but with no law to establish what sin was, and more importantly how to remit sin, (Rom 5:13-14).

*To make sin apparent and lead us to Christ,*

*(Gal 3:24, Rom 3:20, 5:13, 7:7)*

Without the law we have no regulation for sin, and without any regulation, man has no idea how corrupt he actually is. Therefore, this was the whole purpose of the Law. It was then expanded by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to make this point, (Matt 5:17-48). The Sermon on the Mount is not the new standard to obtain righteousness. These rules are even harder and more rigid than the Law. Apart from Jesus, this actually brings more condemnation. So what is Jesus trying to tell us? He is telling us we need Him. We need a Savior. We can't do this on our own. This is why the Law was sent, to show the need for a Savior. Since the Fall of man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin. Man became inherently corrupt, and the law was sent to make sin apparent and show the need for a Savior, (Rom 4:14). The intent of the Law was never to make man righteous. It wasn't a surprise to God when man couldn't keep the law. The righteousness of the Law was never meant for man, the Law was made to show the effects of sin. To man, the Law was a tutor, (Gal 3:24), because it made sin apparent. God had to establish a basis for sin and then make a way to get rid of it. This is why He created the law, to establish the guidelines for Jesus to fulfill. The righteousness of the Law was meant for Jesus, and Jesus alone, to fulfill. Because Jesus was perfect and without sin, the Law was not a tutor to Him, or a way to make sin apparent. To Jesus it was power, and the power to conquer sin and death. **The Law is holy, righteous and good, (Rom 7:12).** God knew the only person capable of fulfilling the Law was His Son Jesus. And when Jesus came to this earth the Law was not a hindrance,

filled with condemnation, but it was power. The Law is only weak thru sinful flesh, (Rom 8:3-4), Jesus was the only one who could complete the law and bring it to its full potential, (1 Tim 1:8), thus fulfilling and establishing the Law.

**Romans 3:31- Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.**

The law is not destroyed. Jesus, Himself, said He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it, (Matt 5:17). By doing this He conquered sin and death, and brought righteousness on all those who believe in Him.

The Law doesn't make anyone righteous. It merely established the rules for righteousness in order that Jesus could fulfill them. Thru Jesus, the righteousness of the Law is administered to us thru grace by faith in Him.

**Romans 8:4- so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

This doesn't mean we must follow the Law to obtain righteousness, but instead, have faith in Jesus knowing He fulfilled the requirement of the Law, and paid for the condemnation of sin for those who believe in Him. The Law not only made sin apparent, but it also established a way to forgive and remit sin. Scripture says, **“without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins”**, (Heb 9:22, Lev 17:11, Ex 29:21). The Law established atonement thru the sacrifice of innocent blood. This was a foreshadow of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Thru His blood we have the remission of sin. **1 Peter 1:18-20-<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**<sup>20</sup> For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.



Righteousness is now by grace thru faith in Jesus so the promise can be in accordance with grace and not works. For the promise was guaranteed to the Seed, and thru the Seed, anyone who is a new creation in Christ is a joint-heir and will receive the promise of eternal life thru inheritance.

## To manifest Jesus in the flesh

(Jn 1:14, Gal 4:4, Rom 1:3)

The Law not only had to establish sin and make a way for the forgiveness of sin, it also needed to separate a chosen lineage to bring the Messiah into this world. This started with Abraham, before the Law, making the promise of the Messiah available to everyone who believes. Then thru the lineage of Abraham, God set apart a chosen people to bring forth the Seed in whom the promise of life was made, (Gal 3:19). For the promise wasn't made to the Jews, the chosen lineage, it was promised to Jesus. He then made the promise of eternal life available to all who believe, Jew and Gentile, again clarifying that righteousness does not come thru the Law but thru Jesus Christ. God separated a chosen people, not for righteousness, but to bring the Savior into the world. It was the lineage of the Jews, thru Jacob, that the Messiah was to come. Thus, the Jews were given the Law to establish the physical means of bringing Jesus into the earth. **Galatians 4:4-5-<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,<sup>5</sup> so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

For example, all the laws on offerings, (Lev 1-7), were a foreshadow of the sacrifice Jesus would fulfill on the cross.

The laws of religious festivals were established foreshadowing Jesus as the Passover Lamb. His resurrection was foreshadowed thru the feast of first fruits, and then the coming of the Holy Spirit was foreshadowed as the feast of Shavuot, also known as the Day of Pentecost, (Lev 23).

The laws of cleanliness and eating habits were established to preserve the lineage, so Jesus would be born healthy and disease wouldn't destroy the genealogy, (Lev 11-15).

Laws on immoral relations, (Lev 18), laws forbidding idolatry, (Lev 19), laws forbidding human sacrifice and immorality, (Lev 20); all were to preserve the lineage and set it apart from the world.

*To establish the guidelines and rules for righteousness in order that  
Jesus could fulfill them*

*(Matt 5:17, Rom 3:31, Gal 3:19, Col 2:19)*

There is a common element in all three purposes of the Law, our Savior, Jesus. This third purpose was Jesus' mission on the earth. To fulfill the Law in order that its righteous effects could be administered to all who believe in Him. If the Law had not been established, the cross would have accomplished nothing, because there would not have been a decree of ordinances established that counted against us, (Col 2:14). Jesus had to come to this earth, born as a man, born under the Law, (Gal 4:4), and die as the final sacrifice for sin, in order to pay the price for our transgressions, and free us from the condemnation of eternal damnation. Some examples of these fulfillments are:

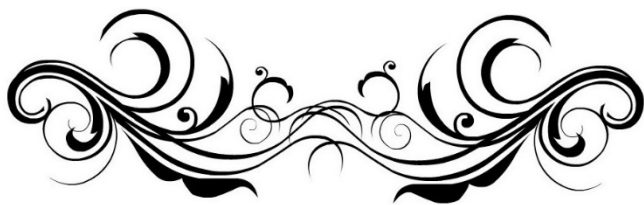
Deuteronomy 21:22-23- <sup>22</sup> “If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, <sup>23</sup> his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (**for he who is hanged is accursed of God**), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Galatians 3:13- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE**”—

Notice these words in Galatians “for it is written”. If it wouldn’t have been written in the Law, it would not have been established, and Jesus could not have become a curse for us because there was not a law decreeing it. This shows the awesome plan of God, established thousands of years in advance, preparing the plan of reconciliation.

Another ordinance which had to be set in place before Jesus could go to the cross was a decree stating how sins would be forgiven. God set forth a law that states “**without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins**”, (Heb 9:22, Lev 17:11, Ex 29:21).

In these examples, of which there are many more, we have shown how the Law established the guidelines for Jesus to fulfill, and in turn, allowed anyone who believes in Him to be forgiven their sins and made righteous. The purpose of the Law is now made evident, and one can see man is not justified by the works of the Law, because the law was never intended for man in the first place.



Man is only justified by the work of Christ on the cross and  
Jesus' resurrection by grace thru faith, not by any  
merits or accomplishment of our own,

Ephesians 2:8-9

Rom 3:28



## Concerning Grace



We have discussed the work of Christ and the meaning and role of faith, now we must discuss Grace. What is it and what does it do for us?

There are three things which must work together in order for one to be justified.

1. The work of Christ, His death and resurrection, had to be accomplished.
2. Faith must be activated by the Spirit illuminated Word of God.
3. Grace must be administered by our High Priest Jesus Christ.

Grace is commonly referred to as God's unmerited favor. Meaning, the favor of God administered without any works or merits of our own. This is true, but it is not complete. Scripture also tells us: Grace is the gift of God, (Eph 2:8). It is a supernatural force that surrounds us and enables us, (Rom 5:2, 6:14-15, 2Cor 12:19), and it is the means by which we are saved and made alive, (Eph 2:5).

*Grace is the free, unmerited gift of God transforming us with His resurrection power to be made alive with Him forever*

Paul tells us we are made alive by the effects of grace. Ephesians 2:5- even when we were dead in our transgressions, (God) **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved).

It is because of this parenthetical phrase we understand how powerful grace is. He could have merely said, “**He made us alive together with Christ**” and stopped there, and this would have been enough for us to believe and stand on. But he takes one more step to explain how we are made alive together with Christ, “**it is by grace you have been saved.**”

Because of this statement, we know the power of grace is what makes us alive together with Christ. Romans 8:10-11- If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit is alive because of righteousness.** <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life** to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

It is by grace that we have our hope in Whom one day we will be unified and glorified with Jesus forever. It is by grace we are raised up out of darkness and translated into His marvelous light, (1 Pet 2:9, Col 1:13). **It is by grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it* is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast, Eph 2:8-9.

Romans 4:16- For this reason *it is* by faith, in order that *it may be* **in accordance with grace,** so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

It is the grace of God that reconciles us with God, and brings us into His family, (Rom 3:24, 9:8, 8:29-30). Romans 8:14-17- <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, **these are sons of God.** <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of **adoption as sons** by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God,** <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also,

heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

God's magnificent rescue from death, wrath, and bondage is all of grace.<sup>1</sup> There is absolutely nothing we can do to add to His grace. Grace is completely dependent on the meritorious work of Christ, and it is a free gift administered to us thru our High Priest, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 8:1-3<sup>1</sup>

Now the main point in what has been said is *this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,<sup>2</sup> a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.<sup>3</sup> For **every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices**; so it is necessary that **this high priest also have something to offer**.

Hebrews 8:6- But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as **He is also the mediator of a better covenant**, which has been enacted on better promises.

Hebrews 9:11-12<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;<sup>12</sup> and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption**.

The promise of the inheritance of eternal life was promised to the Seed of Abraham, Jesus Christ. This promise is only binding between the Father and the Son and it is by Grace that we are included in this promise. Because the covenant is only between the Father and Jesus, it can never be broken. If

---

<sup>1</sup> O'Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (p. 175). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

mankind were in any way liable by our works to uphold this covenant, the first man saved would have ruined the deal, just as Adam did in the beginning.

This covenant is bound between the Father and the Son,  
therefore, it will last forever. Now, thru our faith in  
Jesus, we can participate in the inheritance  
of the new covenant, but it is thru the  
free gift of grace administered  
by Jesus to us that we  
can receive the  
promise.





## Concerning the Bondage of the Will and Original Sin



Jesus has made His righteousness available to everyone who believes in Him. He has made a way to eternal life with Him, and given us a way to have eternal happiness and unending joy in Him. He has prepared the wedding feast, and invited all who believe in Him to participate. It is now our decision to accept this invitation. This is the one thing God will not do for us. He has done everything else, but He will not force anyone against their will. God wants a family, but He only wants those who freely choose Him.

The act of the will is the same as an act of choosing or choice. Every act of the will is a choice of the soul. The soul is an expression of the spirit thru the corporeal being. Mankind is a spirit, it has a soul and it lives in a body. The spirit and the soul can never be separated. However, the body can be separated from the spirit and the soul, as is the case with everyone who has died. Those in heaven right now are waiting for their redemption as are we, the adoption as sons, the glorification of our body and the final unification with Jesus in Him. The soul's choices and decisions are an expression of our spirit, shown forth and manifested by our bodies, whether physical or glorified.

Our soul is our decision maker and the choices it makes reflect the inner man. Our goal as Christians is to be "like Christ". This is what it means to be a Christian. Jesus said, "If you have seen Me you have seen the Father". Can we say this about ourselves? If you see me, you have seen the Father? Unfortunately, not; and quite frankly I am embarrassed to even compare

myself with the Father, and yet it gives Him the most pleasure, and me unending joy, the closer I resemble Him.

This process of transforming ourselves into a vessel, portraying and resembling His light, is the process of sanctification. Sanctification is not Justification. Our justification is secure in Him because it is not by any merit of our own in which we are made righteous, but by the work of Jesus on the cross. By and thru Jesus we are made righteous and anyone who confesses Jesus as Lord, and believes in their heart He was raised from the dead, he will be saved, justified and made righteous, (Rom 10:9-10).

God has given us free will, but free will does not give us the power, or ability, to do good works unto salvation; it merely allows you to choose Jesus and humble yourself to Him. No man can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit and no man can justify himself by his works. The only free will a man has is to choose whom he will serve.

*- but mankind has a big problem -*

Because of the Fall, mankind is so corrupt it cannot make the decision to choose God. Martin Luther called this the bondage of the will. He believed the will of man was so corrupted by sin, man could not choose God on his own. So, if the only way to eternal life is to choose Jesus, but that free choice is so corrupt it cannot and will not choose Him, then man is caught in a terrible and seemingly hopeless paradox that can only end in death and destruction. Martin Luther saw this problem and knew the answer didn't lie within ourselves, but in God. God would create a Way when there was no other way. Therefore, he believed God had predestined the elect and pre-ordained those who would choose Him. Allowing only the free will choice to be available to those He predestined into His grace. These chosen people, endowed with the grace of God would then accept Jesus as their personal

Savior, thus only allowing those who were predestined to be partakers of His promise. This was Martin Luther's solution to the corrupted will.

I respect Martin Luther immensely, and even though I agree with him that mankind was corrupted by the Fall, and cannot choose God while he is under the bondage of sin, I differ from his opinion of predestination, because I believe God does give us the choice to choose Him of our own free will. I believe God made salvation available to all who believe, and His redemptive plan includes us being able to choose Him freely; but, I agree, there is a major hurdle in the way. Our soul is in bondage because of sin, so how can mankind be freed from this bondage in order to choose Jesus? This is a topic about which many great scholars have written hundreds of pages. I will try to sum up my opinion in a much condensed version.

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve and gave them the Garden of Eden to cultivate and to live in. God placed the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden and commanded that from any tree in the garden he may freely eat, but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he shall not eat, for in the day that he will eat from it, he will surely die, (Gen 2:16-17). Satan, disguised as a serpent, tempted Eve and created doubt by asking a question. The serpent said, "Has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" Eve knew the correct answer and replied, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" The serpent then replied to Eve with an outright lie saying, "You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

As we all know, Eve took the fruit, seeing that it was good to eat and gave some to her husband, Adam, who was with her. Notice Adam wasn't off in the garden somewhere, he was right there with Eve, hearing every word Satan was saying. The only difference, we learn from Paul in his first letter to Timothy 2:14, he says the woman was deceived, but Adam was not. Nonetheless, they both ate the fruit and fell into transgression.

Scripture says, after they ate the fruit, their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. Thru this transgression, they gained an intimate knowledge of sin, and instantly the curse of sin corrupted the entire creation.

**Isaiah 45:7- The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.**

Calamity came as a result of giving man free will and choice. God knew if He were to give Adam a choice, it would result in sin. This was part of God's plan. He used the choice of free will to show there is only One Way, and it is Jesus. Man cannot do it on his own. He must have a Savior. The conviction of sin will drive one away from self-reliance and toward trust in God, and the promise of the Christ.

So, it is very important to remember this was not a surprise to God. God knew they would sin, and yet He wanted His children to have the free choice to serve Him. This is only conjecture, but I think they could have gained an understanding of evil and sin without actually eating the fruit. It wasn't the fruit itself that was corrupt, it was disobedience that allowed sin to enter. I believe, as Adam cared for the tree and cultivated it, without eating it, God would have taught them good and evil, and they would have known sin without having to have actually committed it. Nevertheless, that didn't happen, and God knew it wouldn't happen, so sin came into the world and death by sin. The corruption of sin didn't stop there, but Scripture tells us death spread

to all men, (Rom 5:12), even over those who had not sinned. Even though the Law had not been established to impute sin, nevertheless, sin reigned in every person because the corruption of sin was in the seed, (Rom 5:14). **For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, (Rom 3:23).**

Therefore, Jesus had to be born of a virgin, made by the seed of the Holy Spirit, because the seed of man was corrupted by sin, and even though Jesus had never sinned Himself, He would have been born with sin.

Therefore, the uncorrupted seed of God was the only way to bring Jesus into the this physical realm as a perfect man. So, even if someone could follow the Law perfectly, without sinning, (which is impossible of itself), but say for instance if it were possible, this person would still be a sinner, because he would have been born from sin by the corrupted seed of man.

Therefore, all men are corrupt by nature and cannot choose God in this reprobate state. The corruption of original sin made it impossible for the human soul to choose God. The soul had become cold and unregenerate, only loving the darkness, and hating the light. A cold, unregenerate soul does not want to and cannot choose God.

Romans 5:12- Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so **death spread to all men, because all sinned**—

John 3:19-20<sup>19</sup> “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness rather than the Light**, for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> “For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

1 John 2:11- But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because **the darkness has blinded his eyes**.

Romans 8:7- Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

John 3:3- Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

As you can see from the handful of scripture above, mankind has a big problem, and this is why Luther chose predestination as the way man could be saved from this paradox. But I disagree that His children had to abandon this free will choice, and God was forced to make the choice for Himself by predetermining those who would be made righteous. I believe God wants us to be able to choose Him willingly and freely, just as He gave Adam and Eve the free choice in the garden. So, the question is, how can man get past the hurdle of the corrupted soul not being able to choose God for himself?

There are those, like Aristotle and Pelagius, who say original sin did not corrupt all men, but it is the individual sin of a person which corrupts him. Thus, allowing a person, by his own free will, without the assistance of God's grace, to attain moral perfection. We can prove this unscriptural by referring to the verses above, therefore this is not the answer to the bondage of the will. The short answer, in which I will focus the next several pages, is-

*We are saved by God's grace, shed abroad in our hearts thru faith  
in Jesus by the hearing and understanding of the Scripture*

Somehow God had to create in our soul a spark of life to allow us to choose Him. He did this by giving us His life giving Word, which then allows faith to stir our hearts and ignite a spark in our soul to then be able to choose Jesus. The answer to the bondage of the will is His Word. His Word, which has the

most power, is most glorious and has the greatest authority, even above His Name. Psalm 138:2b- For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

*God's Word was His answer to our bondage!*

Justification comes by faith alone in the meritorious work of Christ.

Faith is the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture. It is not something earned. The efficacious enablement of faith is accessed when one hears the Scripture and understands it. One can hear the Scripture in several ways: it can be read directly from His written Word, it can be heard by listening to His written Word, or it can be spoken as a rhema Word from God. Hearing the Word can come from it being taught and preached, communicated orally in some fashion that will ignite a spark of life in the soul, thus allowing the corrupted soul to confess with the mouth Jesus is Lord. This confession enables the unregenerate spirit to believe Jesus was raised from the dead for his justification. This invites the Holy Spirit into the human spirit making the old corrupted spirit a new creation in Christ. It is this spark of faith which ignites the soul and allows it to make the decision to justification.

Romans 10:8-10- But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, **the word of faith** which we are preaching, <sup>9</sup> that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

This spark of faith that ignites our soul when we hear and understand the Scripture is lit by the fire of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:11- “As for me, I

baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The corrupted human soul, in bondage to sin, is looking for a way to obtain complete happiness. But the only place it knows to look is in the world. The world offers pleasure, but it is not true pleasure. The sinful nature thinks the things of this world can give it happiness; worldly things like a new car, a new house, new clothes, drugs, alcohol, fornication, pornography, anything to satisfy the appetite for the flesh. But it will soon find out those things are only a temporal fix. None of these things can give true eternal happiness and unending joy. The only way to eternal happiness, and joy that never ends is thru Jesus, (Ps 16:11, Jn 15:11).

So here we have man, unregenerate, bound in sin, looking for a way to true happiness, and someone comes along talking about Jesus. He starts to tell the lost man there is a way to eternal happiness. He tells him Jesus loves us so much He died for us and made it possible by believing in Him his sins would be forgiven. Thru this man Jesus, all the terrible things he has done in his life while searching for complete happiness from the world can be washed away and forgiven. A chance to start new as a new man, born-again in Jesus. This hope in Jesus is the spark that will ignite the soul to choose to believe. This life-giving word of God, telling the story of Jesus, will give the lost soul enough faith to grab hold of the hand of God, and accept the free gift of grace bestowed on him. He accepts this grace by first confessing Jesus is Lord, which in turn allows the spirit by faith to accept the gift of grace, and believe in their heart Jesus was raised from the dead for their justification. That is all it takes for the spark to ignite. This word of God preached gives the soul enough faith for the person, if he chooses, to have ears to hear and understand the love of Jesus. Jesus loves us so much He died for us, and was raised from the dead so we could have eternal happiness with Him. This awakens the soul just enough for man to choose Jesus, to believe in his heart



Jesus was raised from the dead, and all his sins have been paid for and washed clean by the blood of Jesus, resulting in justification.

Without the Word of God, there is no hope for mankind. God's Word is the only avenue for an unregenerate soul to have the ability to choose

God. Without the Word, man does not have

ears to hear, he cannot choose to

believe unless the Word of

God is exposed to

his soul.



## Concerning Evangelical Free Will: the Freedom in Christ



Freedom in Christ is established as a result of hearing, understanding, and obeying the Spirit illuminated Word of God. Philip Melancthon, a sixteenth century reformer, called this evangelical free will. Free will as a result of hearing, understanding, and obeying the gospel.

Justification, as a result of our free decision, is the acceptance of God's free gift of grace. Accepting this gift is not a meritorious work. The decision to choose Jesus doesn't contradict grace. It is merely accepting God's gift to us, not by our works but solely on the work of Jesus.

The freedom of choice, and evangelical free will are very different than Pelagianism. Pelagianism believes with free will comes good works that merit salvation. Evangelical free will states, man has free will to choose Jesus because of the Spirit illuminated Word of God, but it is still by grace thru faith by which we are saved. The work of Jesus on the cross is the only work that merits justification. As we have stated previously, the human will could not make this decision for Jesus if it were not for the Word and the influence of the Holy Spirit on the Word to enable faith in that person. Faith is the ability to choose the grace of God as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture.

People cannot choose to have faith in God unless they hear the Spirit-illuminated Word of God; but all people when they hear the Word of God, (which is always illuminated by the Holy Spirit), have, at that moment, the free choice of whether or not to have faith in Christ. Predestination is not

involved at all. The effectiveness of the Spirit's call is contingent upon the free response of the individual human will<sup>2</sup>.

God calls us and invites us into His family by the evangelical Word. The majority of those who come to God usually have the Word of God preached or spoken to them. It is thru His Word that each of us are drawn to Him. He does not force Himself on anyone, but He makes Himself available to all.

John 6:44- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws him**; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 12:32- “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw all men to Myself**.”

All thru scripture, God is constantly using miracles, metaphors and types to foreshadow future events. The miraculous catch of fish with the disciples is a perfect example of God drawing us to Him.

John 21:6- And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find *a catch*.” So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

Matthew 4:19- And He said to them, “Follow Me, and **I will make you fishers of men**.”

God has always used men to act as His mouthpiece to draw people to Him. In the Old Testament these were His prophets. Now, under the New Covenant, He has set in place a five category ministry system, (Eph 4:11), to draw people to Him thru His word; still choosing to use men as His fellow-workers, (1 Cor 3:9).

---

<sup>2</sup> Graybill, Evangelical Free Will, ch 9, page 289

Romans 16:25-26- <sup>25</sup> Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> **but now is manifested**, and **by the Scriptures of the prophets**, according to the commandment of the eternal God, **has been made known to all the nations**, leading to obedience of faith;

It is so amazing that God would trust something as important as the administration of His Word resulting in the salvation of mankind to us. We are imperfect people who can, and will, mess things up and get in the way, but God doesn't see it like that. The process of us working with Him brings Him pleasure. It is not only the final completed act of salvation God is interested in. He loves spending time with us on the journey in the plan of redemption, working with us every step of the way to bring as many people into His kingdom who will accept Him.

Romans 10:13-15- <sup>13</sup> for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And **how will they hear without a preacher?** <sup>15</sup> How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF **THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!**"

Acts 8:30-35- <sup>30</sup> Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "Well, **how could I, unless someone guides me?**" ... <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture **he preached Jesus to him.**

1 Corinthians 2:12-16- <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup> **which things we also**

**Speak**, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those **taught by the Spirit**, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. ... <sup>16</sup> For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT **HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM?** But **we have the mind of Christ.**

Evangelical free will is the freedom of Christ operating in the soul  
as a result of hearing, understanding, and accepting the Spirit  
illuminated Word.

Galatians 5:1- It was for freedom that **Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

John 8:32- and you will know the truth, and **the truth will make you free.**”

Jesus gave us this freedom to first, choose to believe in Him and His glorious work on the cross. Secondly, we must use this free will to keep choosing Him in every decision we have while we are on this earth. This leads us to sanctification. As we make the decisions to choose the things of God, the Holy Spirit is working within us to separate and set us apart from the sin of the world.

Galatians 5:13- For you were **called to freedom**, brethren; only *do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh*, but **through love serve one another.**

Use this freedom to love and regard others as more important than yourself. Have the same attitude in yourself that was also in Christ Jesus; that He humbled Himself to the will of the Father and became obedient to death on the cross, (Phil 2:5, 8).

Hebrews 2:14-15<sup>14</sup> ... through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and **might free those** who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Romans 8:2- For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has set you free** from the law of sin and of death.

As believers in Jesus thru His grace, we therefore, do not have any condemnation of sin, (Rom 8:1). Jesus paid the price for all sin and, by accepting His free gift of grace, we are made free from the bondage of sin.

God created mankind with the necessity of serving a master. After the Fall, man became subject to the bondage of sin rather than being enslaved to God. Because of sin, the fundamental desire to serve God was corrupted and man became a servant to sin, subject to the bondage of sin. But now that Jesus has come, we have a choice to serve Him. Jesus said

<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup> **“Take My yoke upon you** and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. <sup>30</sup> “For **My yoke is easy** and My burden is light”, Matthew 11:28-30.

Jesus wants us to bind ourselves with Him, yoke ourselves and connect with Him. Anchor our soul to Him by hope, (Heb 6:19), and be enslaved to Him; humbling ourselves to Him by making Jesus the Lord of our lives. To be a servant of Jesus Christ is to put all your trust and hope in Him, because He cares and loves us so much that He gave His life so we might have an eternity of happiness and everlasting joy with Him.

By choosing Jesus, we are freed from sin and connected to Him thru grace. The Holy Spirit then has access to our spirit, and we are made a new creation in Christ Jesus. Our spirit, thru the work of the Holy Spirit in us,

bears the fruit of the Spirit. Which then results in sanctification, leading to a glorious and future resurrection of our bodies, which is the adoption as sons, the glorification of our bodies, united in Him forever.

Romans 6:22- But now having been **freed from sin** and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

It is the daily decision, as a result of being made free in Christ and obtaining a free evangelical will, that we can choose to stand firm, be diligent, and press toward the prize of the high calling.

*God's word is available to all, thus salvation is for all and to all them that believe, not only those who have been predestined.*

Romans 10:11-13- For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; <sup>13</sup> for “**WHOEVER** WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

Titus 2:11- For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all men**,

1 Timothy 2:3-6- <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a ransom **for all**, the testimony given at the proper time.

Romans 5:18-19- <sup>18</sup> So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of **life to all men**. <sup>19</sup> For

as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the **many will be made righteous**.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. Jesus made His righteousness available to all who believe. Righteousness was offered to all men. Offering implies a decision, something that can be accepted or rejected. The promise of the gospel was offered to all men, it is only those who accept the invitation that are given the free gift. Jesus' parable of the wedding feast is a perfect example, (Matt 22:1-14, Lk 14:16-24).

To make the promises of the Gospel only available to the elect would make God responsible for evil and reprobation, (the rejection of God resulting in condemnation to eternal damnation).

The total control of God both in the physical and spiritual realms results in two errors:

1. It makes God responsible for evil. It makes God choose who gets to live with Him forever and who is damned to hell without any consideration of personal choices or actions.
2. If God were in total control of all things, even temporal things, it removes the responsibility of people and their actions, making them free of any unruly behavior and putting the blame on God.



It is God's will that all be saved, thus justification ultimately depends on our free choice to choose to believe in Jesus. The belief that only God chooses the elect takes all responsibility from the person. We are still saved by grace thru faith, not of any of our merits or works, but Christ alone. However, our responsible decision allows grace to save us. If the responsibility of choice is not applied to justification, it would result in chaos.

Men would do and act however they want because there would be no effect to their decisions. Such thinking is not the will of God. God did not create robots with no decision-making ability. He wants a family who will choose Him and love Him.



## Concerning Predestination



he subject of predestination has been widely misunderstood and used incorrectly. The doctrine of predestination takes away the person's free will to choose God, thus making God not only responsible for those who have eternal life, but also for electing who goes to hell; when it is God's will that all men be saved. <sup>1</sup>

Timothy 2:3-6- <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> **who desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> **who gave Himself as a ransom for all**, the testimony *given* at the proper time. God is not responsible for evil and it is not God damning people into hell apart from their own will. It is the judgment of sin, based on their choices that sends people to hell. Those who believe in Jesus have their sins forgiven, therefore they are judged righteous thru the blood of Jesus and are granted eternal life.

Predestination is not God choosing who lives in eternity with Him, and who is condemned to eternal damnation. It is simply the foreknowledge of God, who knows the end from the beginning and made His plan for the redemption of man according to who would choose Him and who would reject Him. He knows every decision we will ever make and has formulated His plan to include us. His will is going to be done, we cannot do anything to change His plan, but we can choose at what level we want to participate. Do you want to sit on the bench on the sidelines? Are you in the bleachers or the parking lot? Or are you in the game, on the field, making a difference for the kingdom of God? These are all our decisions, and God knows the outcome of each of

them. He uses our involvement, and includes us in His plan set in place before the foundation of the world. This is how much He loves us. The fact that He would even think of involving us in something as important as the redemption of man, and the reconciliation of His family, is astounding.

Phillip Melancthon had another way to look at predestination which I quite like. He stated, predestination is not predetermination of a person's destiny and their decisions, but the predetermined outcome of God's universal promises to all mankind.

It has been the assumption that predestination is focused on the individual, when instead predestination is the predetermined effect of believing in Jesus. God predestined the effect of faith in Jesus to be the administered free gift of grace to the believer. It is not the individual person that has been predetermined, but the result of faith in Jesus, allowing them to participate in a predetermined elect group called the Church. The Church has been predestined, and all who believe in Jesus can participate in the elect Church; the true universal Church, the body of Christ.

The decision to accept God's free gift of grace is a free choice to anyone, but the result of that decision, has a predestined result. For instance, if a man chooses to accept Jesus and the free gift of grace, the predetermined outcome to that decision is righteousness and everlasting life with Jesus. Though God was at work in justification, the elect were those who cooperated with God, and freely, of their own wills, chose to accept His promises. The elect is a predetermined category of those people who choose God. Not necessarily a predestination of an elect individual. Election represented God's mercy, or grace, which came to us in the form of promises in the Word illumined by the Spirit,<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> Graybill, Evangelical Free Will, ch 8 page 246

Romans 8:29-30- <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, (those whom He foreknew that would receive the predestined result of His grace) He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

1 Corinthians 2:7- but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

Ephesians 1:5- He predestined us (He predetermined the result of grace to anyone who should receive His free gift) to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Ephesians 1:11- also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined (partakers of His predetermined result of grace) according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

In the defense against predestination, Melancthon stated, the hardening of Pharaoh's heart was not a direct shaping of the will, but rather God letting Pharaoh make his own decisions to act in a manner he naturally desired. God gave him over to a reprobate mind; letting him go to his own choices and desires, (Rom 1:28, Eph 4:19). The same can be true for Judas Iscariot. Judas was not destined to be the betrayer without his free will choice, but it was the foreknowledge of God that knew the decisions Judas would make and in turn, God selected Judas to be the betrayer as a result of his personal decisions.

“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. <sup>65</sup> And He was saying,  
“For this reason I have said to you, that no  
one can come to Me unless it  
has been granted him  
from the Father.”

John 6:64~

65



## Concerning Philosophy and human reason



philosophy can be helpful in understanding the scriptures, but philosophy alone, as Aristotle teaches, cannot save one's soul. The human soul can learn both to create, and maintain order, and to bring about the knowledge of sin and understand the need for a Savior, but this head knowledge is not enough for one to be born again.

1 Corinthians 2:14- But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

The key to breaking thru this corruption is God's Word, Faith, and His Grace. After this, one can put to work the temporal ideas of philosophy. Philosophy, when defined as grammar and rhetoric (the art of speaking or writing effectively): such as the study of writing or speaking as a means of communication or persuasion, and dialectics (any systematic reasoning, exposition, a method of examining and connecting other scripture and references to clarify and explain a topic), is absolutely essential to the study of the Bible. But again, philosophy alone does not make one perfect, they are merely tools we can use to expand our knowledge of the scripture. It is the Word of God alone that can give us this spark and ignite the soul to choose God.

Language and rhetoric are temporal containers of spiritual truth. Below is a quote from Martin Luther, he said:

“Without languages, we could not have received the Gospel...

Languages are the sheath that contains the sword of the Spirit; they are the casket that guards the jewels; they are the vessel that holds the wine; and, as the Gospel says, they are the baskets in which the loaves and fishes are kept to feed the multitude.”

The physical mind is necessary in understanding the things of God, but it must be put in the correct order. The physical mind and philosophy must complement and support the bible, not change or alter the meaning of the bible.

If philosophy and human reason without the guidance of the Holy Spirit tries to take precedence of the scriptures, there are three fatal errors that ensue:

1. It tries to achieve its own righteousness thru works and not the works of Christ.
  2. It tries to change the spirit, when only the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit can make a man a new creation.
  3. Human reasoning is selfish and does not regard others as more important than itself, thus it does not see the plan of God or do anything to bring the body of Christ together in unity by love.
- Human reasoning will always force its way onto a person.

Human will in its natural, unguarded form will create chaos. This is why Paul says to obey government, (Rom 13:1-7), because even in bad government and rule, even if that government is imprisoning and killing Christians, it is still maintaining order so the people do not create chaos. The human will must be reined in. The best way is by the Holy Spirit, but not all accept Him so God

had to put carnal, temporal leadership in place to govern the ungodly. This can seem very bad, especially for Christians, but the sufferings and persecution that can arise because of bad leadership, or a corrupt government, can actually lead to furthering the gospel instead of hindering it. We see this from Paul's writings to the Philippians, <sup>12</sup> **Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, <sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear, Philippians 1:12-14.**

Another example of corrupt leadership that seemed to create a hindrance to the gospel, but instead aided in its furtherance and progression, was the martyrdom of Stephen. In the book of Acts we are told Stephen is stoned to death for preaching the gospel and because of this persecution, they all flee from Jerusalem. Little did they know at the time, this scattering actually led to the disbursement of the gospel over the known world. This persecution gave the gospel the launch that otherwise may have taken years to accomplish. Acts 8:1-4- **And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.**

This proves in all things, we must trust God. It is not God creating persecution, but despite the persecution, God's grace will abound.



Romans 8:28- And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose.

When persecution arises from those who have not found God; from those still corrupted by sin, those who are hostile toward the things and people of God; stay rooted and grounded in His promises. Knowing this: Romans 8:18- ... that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Luke 21:16-18- <sup>16</sup> “But **you will be betrayed** even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put **some of you to death**, <sup>17</sup> and **you will be hated by all** because of My name. <sup>18</sup> **“Yet not a hair of your head will perish.**

James 1:2- **Consider it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

Hebrews 10:32-34- <sup>32</sup> But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you **endured a great conflict of sufferings ... and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.**

Human reasoning and philosophy apart from God is so selfish, that it will always choose itself over anything else. But when the soul is sanctified and set apart from the corrupt things of the world; when its focus is on the things of God and not of the corrupted self, the Holy Spirit can start to create in the regenerate soul the True Knowledge and Wisdom of God. We start to gain an understanding into the things of God and our carnal mind starts to grasp the things of God. We start to comprehend the incomprehensible, because of the Wisdom working within us.

Ephesians 3:18-19- ... able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to

**know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

God shares the deep things to those who delight in Him. The mystery of the cross and His redemptive plan that was hidden in Him since before the foundation of the world; and He has now revealed them to us by His Spirit.

For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He  
will instruct him? But we have  
the mind of Christ,  
1 Corinthians  
2:16



# The Process of Obtaining Freedom in Christ



Below is a summary of what we have learned from the above document. It is a step by step explanation of the process to obtaining freedom in Christ, guiding us from the bondage of sin to the perfect law of liberty, apportioned in five steps:

## Step 1- born into sin

Every person starts their life with a spirit which is lifeless and dead, and a soul that is corrupted, bound and enslaved to sin, (Rom 5:12, 6:20, 8:7, 1 Tim 1:15). The soul is corrupted and bound, but it is not dead. The spirit, however, is dead and must be cut off, buried, and made a new creation. The soul was never meant to be its own master. God created man as a spirit intending it to be the driving force of life, (Rom 8:6). But now, because of sin, the spirit is dead and useless. It can no longer control the soul, leaving the corrupted soul no other choice but to serve the sinful nature, (Matt 6:24). Because the soul is not dead, but in bondage, it still has a will to choose, but the ability to choose is restricted and bound. It is dominated by the sinful nature, and obligates the soul to be enslaved to it. Mankind was created to worship and please God through his humble obedience and faith, but because of the corrupting effects of sin, these inherent tendencies are now twisted and reprobate, choosing the things of selfishness, loving the darkness and hating the light, (Jn 3:19). Mankind has a God-given, fundamental tendency to seek happiness and joy. This is what every single person is trying to find in life. The question all people have is, "what is my purpose in this life?" The principal answer to this question is:

Our purpose in life is to be a child of God, to serve Him and please Him in everything we do. This is our purpose because God made us this way.

When we please Him, it in turn gives us the fullest joy and most complete happiness we could ever find because we are fulfilling our purpose. The reason so many people are unhappy is because they are not participating in God's plan for mankind.

Our soul has this innate yearning to please God, whether the person knows it or not, but it is held in bondage by the corruption of sin. Sin has twisted true happiness and joy into the selfish deeds of the flesh, thus making it impossible to please God.

Romans 8:5-8- <sup>5</sup> Those who are **dominated by the sinful nature** think about sinful things, but those who are **controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the **sinful nature is always hostile to God.** It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. <sup>8</sup> That's why those who are still under the control of their **sinful nature can never please God.**

While we were yet sinners, (while we were under the obligation to do what the sinful nature urged us to do), Christ died for the ungodly. He made a way when there was no other way. God declared an end to the control of sin over all those that accept the free gift of grace by giving His Son as a sacrifice for sin. Thru the life-giving Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ has set us free, being made a curse for us. And though He knew no sin, He became sin for us, that we could be made the righteousness of God in Him, (Gal 3:13, 5:1, 2Cor 5:21).

## Step 2- the Life-Giving Word of God

There are those people who have completely given themselves over to the sinful nature. Therefore, when the Word of God is taught and preached, those people choose not to accept the Truth. They continue with their own lives, unwilling to give up the pleasures of this world, deceived into thinking the things of this world can give them happiness. These are they that have a hard heart of unbelief, (Matt 13:15, 19, Heb 3:12-13). They have rejected God to the point He has no choice but to let them go to their reprobate mind. Not by His choice, but the choice of that individual, (Rom 1:28, Eph 4:19).

**Romans 10:16- However, they did not all heed [obey] the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"**

But others hear the Word, and have a yearning inside to know more and understand what this life-giving Word is offering. God does not will anyone to perish, (1 Tim 2:4). He sent His Son, and paid the ultimate price to redeem us from the bondage of sin, but He cannot make this choice for us. The decision must come from our own free will. But our soul has been corrupted by sin, and is not able to choose God. He, therefore, draws us to Him by His Word, and the promise of the Savior. He wants to show us His kindness and goodness, knowing His goodness leads us to repentance, (Rom 2:4). He has given us a hope only found in Jesus. A hope secure and steadfast, able to give eternal happiness and unending joy to those that find and choose Him.

If the man sees the need for a Savior, and hears with their ears the good news, (Matt 13:15-16), the bound soul will yearn for the hope in Jesus, but it cannot persuade the sinful nature. It is restricted to act or progress toward changing its corrupted state on its own. God sees the inner man craving the freedom, but is still bound by sin. This desire, this hope in the Savior, is enough for God to break the chains that bind us. Our hope in Jesus breaks us free from the restrictive constraints, allowing us to make the decision to choose Jesus. He will raise us up, and redeem ourretched soul from

destruction. Isaiah 30:18- Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Faith comes by hearing, accepting, and obeying the word of God, (Rom 10:17). Faith is the substance of our hope in His Word, (Heb 11:1).

*The Word is the life-giving force that will break the bondage of the will and give the soul the ability to believe in Jesus, and accept the free gift of grace.*

John 6:63- The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. (Words that can free you from the bondage of sin.)

Romans 8:2- And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Nahum 1:13- Now I will break the yoke of bondage from your neck and tear off the chains of ... oppression."

Isaiah 9:4<sup>a</sup>- For you (Jesus) will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

Psalms 40:2- He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

Psalms 69:14- Rescue me from the mud; don't let me sink any deeper! Save me from those who hate me, and pull me from these deep waters.

Ephesians 3:16- that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**,

If the person who hears the Word of God turns away, he denies the hope in Jesus. This man will not receive anything as a result of his hard heart.

However, the man who hears the Word, and understands the need for a Savior; even though he cannot act on his desires, this ignites his soul with faith. Faith, or in other words, the substance of hope in God, (Heb 11:1), is mixed with the Word of God, enabling his soul to believe in Jesus, and accept the free gift of grace, (Heb 4:2).

This person's hope is turned toward Jesus, and he is now able to hear and understand the scriptures, and receive the word of God with joy and hope.

Psalms 19:7<sup>a</sup>- The instructions of the LORD are perfect, **reviving the soul**.

### **Step 3- Separation of the dead spirit from the soul**

Once the soul believes in Jesus, and accepts the free gift of grace, the dead spirit must be removed, and the new spirit is set in place and reconnected with the soul, (Jn 3:7, 1 Jn 5:4).

Ezekiel 36:26-27- <sup>26</sup> And I will give you a **new heart**, and I will put a **new spirit in you**. I will take out your **stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart**. <sup>27</sup> And I will put **My Spirit in you** ...

The soul has made the decision to follow Jesus and His promise of eternal life thru the Holy Spirit. The soul renounces its slavery to sin, and commits itself to Jesus. The old, dead spirit is cut off from the soul and replaced with

a new spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit. This process provides freedom and ignites the soul, giving it the ability, by faith, to choose God.

Hebrews 4:12- For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, **cutting between soul and spirit**, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. (And frees us from the bondage of sin.)

Hebrews 4:12 compares the joints and the marrow to the soul and the spirit. I want to emphasize this comparison for a moment. This will help explain the role of the spirit and the role of the soul in the born-again believer.

The newly created spirit, filled with the Holy Spirit, is now the life force driving the soul. But the soul is still the decision maker, and is the only means of expression the spirit has. Compare this to the analogy of the bone marrow and the joints. The bone marrow is the life of the person. For scripture says “the life is in the blood”, Lev 17:11. The bone marrow inside our bones is where most of the blood in our body is made. The bone marrow is a type of the spirit, the life-giving force of the body. The joints are a type of the soul. They enable the movement of the bones, for without the joints, our body, though it is filled with life, can not move. This is how the soul expresses the intents of the spirit. The spirit can be full of life, but without the soul making the decisions to correspond to the life-giving force, the spirit is inactive. Let us strive to benefit our spirit, letting the life force of the Word flow thru us, cooperating and being fellow-workers with God.

The Word of God breaks the chains binding us to sin, releasing the soul to make the decision to choose Jesus. It cuts off and separates the old, dead spirit from the soul, and replaces the old spirit with a new created spirit in Christ Jesus. The soul is connected to the life-giving force of a newly created, Holy Spirit filled, sinless spirit, covered by the blood of Jesus. It is ready to express the intents of the spirit, no longer obligated to perform to the urges of the sinful nature.



## Step 4- Freedom of the Will

Evangelical Free Will is the ability to choose God freely because of the life-giving Word of God. Once the will has been set free, and has made the decision to choose Jesus, it is under the control of the newly created spirit, enslaved to Christ. It has the ability to freely choose the things of God without being forced into the bondage of sin. It is no longer obligated to do what the sinful nature urges it to do. Don't get me wrong, we can still decide to enslave ourselves to sin, if we choose, but our newly created spirit is now empowered by the Holy Spirit, and the grace of God is now working in our life to give us the ability to always choose Him.

Romans 6:22- But now having been **freed from sin and enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, **resulting in sanctification**, and the outcome, eternal life.

John 8:32- And you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**"

James 1:25- But if you look carefully into **the perfect law that sets you free...**

Romans 8:2- And because you belong to him, **the power of the life-giving Spirit** has **freed you from the power of sin** that leads to death.

The soul is now freed from the bondage of sin, but it is not remade sinless like the spirit. It is completely free to choose the things of God and grow in sanctification, but because of the fallen world we live in, temptation and sin is all around us, and our souls will still choose to sin. Some will even regress to become a slave to sin again even though they are made free in Christ, (Gal 5:1).

Romans 7:14-25- <sup>14</sup> ... The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate ... <sup>17</sup> I am not the one doing wrong; **it is sin living in me that does it** ... <sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. <sup>20</sup> But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>21</sup> I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. <sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But **there is another power within me that is at war with my mind**. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. <sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? <sup>25</sup> Thank God! **The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord**.

Hebrews 4:15-16- <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours **understands our weaknesses**, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find **grace to help us** when we need it most,

This does not in any way effect our newly created spirit. Our spirit is perfect and sinless because of the blood of Jesus, (1 Peter 1:18-19). But because the temptations of sin are all around us, we must cling to Jesus and strive to live and abide in Him. The Holy Spirit works within us, during our lifetime journey on this earth, to sanctify us from the things of this world. During this process, we become one with Him, leading to our final completed state of salvation, the glorification of our bodies in Him.

## Step 5- Born Again

Once we make the free decision to choose Jesus as our Lord and Savior, a transformation occurs, we are now what Jesus calls “born-again”. But what does this term mean? Obviously, we are not born from our mother’s womb again, so why does Jesus use this term, “born-again”? As with any question, we must always go to the Scripture to find the truth. The best place to start is Jesus’ discussion with Nicodemus, which leads to probably the most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16. Let us start at verse 3:

John 3:3- Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.” This is the first time we see the term “born-again” in the scriptures. Nicodemus answers, <sup>4</sup> “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Here we have our first clue: to be born-again is to be born of water and Spirit. When one is born-again, he is justified with God and made righteous. The Holy Spirit enters the newly created spirit of the man, and he is made a new creation in Jesus. <sup>6</sup> “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit**. <sup>7</sup> “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is **born of the Spirit**.” Jesus explains, just as we can hear and feel the effects of the wind, we do not know the origin of the wind or where it is going. Just the same, we do not know the mechanics behind justification, although I am trying my best, in this book I have written, to decipher the workings of our righteousness. However, the temporal idea of physical creation is astounding, not to mention the topic of spiritual creation.

Our spiritual creation, the replacement of our old spirit and the new creation we become in Jesus, is far more than we can comprehend in this age and with this physical mind. Thus, I would respond, as Nicodemus, saying, <sup>9</sup> “How can these things be?” Jesus knew Nicodemus was not ready to comprehend the answer, just as Jesus said to the disciples in the upper room, John 16:12-13- <sup>12</sup> “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. <sup>13</sup> “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; ... He will disclose to you what is to come. This is an amazing promise we hear from Jesus. Those of us who have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, can be guided into all truth, and shown the deep things of God. Here lies the purpose of this book. To discover the deep things of God He has revealed to us by His Spirit.

This is another clue to the meaning of being born-again: the Holy Spirit will guide us into all Truth. We have the Holy Spirit in our new spirit revealing the mysteries of the kingdom of God to us. 1 Corinthians 2:9-12- But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” <sup>10</sup> **BUT GOD** has revealed *them* to

us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. We understand from this verse being born-again gives us the benefit of receiving the Holy Spirit into our spirit. And through this unification, we start to gain knowledge of the free gift of grace. Jesus couldn't explain the mechanics of justification to Nicodemus because Nicodemus didn't have the Holy Spirit to guide him into the Truth. But

now, because we are born-again, we have the Spirit in us. The only thing Jesus could reveal at that time was the hope in the Messiah, and as we discussed previously, hope in our Savior is the fundamental key to justification. Hope breaks the chains of bondage, and it begins the process of being born-again. Jesus said to Nicodemus, <sup>13</sup> “No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must the Son of Man be lifted up;** <sup>15</sup> so that **whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.** <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**

To be born-again is to be born of the Spirit. The old, dead spirit is cut off and buried with Christ's death, and the new spirit is raised up and made alive in Christ's resurrection. 2 Corinthians 5:17- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a **new creation;*** old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4- <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that **He was buried,** and that **He was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures,

*So what exactly does it mean to be reborn,  
and what part of the man is reborn?  
Is it the spirit of the man or the life of the man?*

The life of the man is reborn through the newly created spirit by the life-giving Spirit of God enabled in the new man. Our physical beings were born from our physical parents. The soul was in bondage to sin and the spirit was

dead in sin because of our physical father Adam, (Rom 5:12). But now, we are born-again with a new Father, God Almighty. All those who believe in Jesus are made to be His children. Romans 8:14-16- <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have **received a spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are **children of God**. The whole purpose to our existence is to be children of God. This is the reason He created us. God wanted a family. He went to great lengths, namely the sacrifice of His Son, to give us reconciliation, and raise us up to be with Him. Romans 5:10-11- <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled to God** through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom we have now received the reconciliation**. It is through this reconciliation in Jesus, we can be called children of God. Our old, dead spirit was buried, and we were given a newly created spirit by which we receive the promise of the adoption as sons, and declared by God as His child. The adoption as sons is the completion of our salvation. It is the redemption of our bodies when we receive our glorified bodies and become united with Him forever, (Rom 8:23).

1 John 3:1- See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called **children of God**; and *such* we are.

John 1:12-13- <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, *even to those who believe in His name*, <sup>13</sup> who were **born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

Galatians 3:26- For you are all **sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**.

## Alive in Christ

To be born-again is to be born of the Spirit, and to be made alive in Christ. The old things, such as the dead spirit, have passed away and are buried, and we have been given a new spirit resulting in the resurrection of our new life in Christ. We have been made alive in Christ through the free gift of grace, by faith in Jesus.

Romans 8:10-11- <sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit is alive because of righteousness.** <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

Ephesians 2:5-6- <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, [He] **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and **raised us up with Him**, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:4-11- <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been **buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead** through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in **newness of life.** <sup>5</sup> For if we have become **united with Him** in the likeness of His death, certainly **we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,** <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with Him,** <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be **dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Our newly created spirit is the life-force to our soul and body. When our old spirit was dead in sin and our soul was in bondage to sin, obligated to serve the sinful nature, there was no life-giving force guiding us. We were driven by every worldly desire and fleshly emotion, unhappy and without purpose in this life. But through Jesus, we have been made alive together with Him by grace through faith. We are children of God who now have life and purpose, living to worship and please the Father.

Ephesians 2:12-13- <sup>12</sup> *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, ... and **strangers to the covenants of promise,** having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> **But now in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ.**

## The Forgiveness of Sins

Now that we have been made children of God and have been raised up with Him, and made alive together in Him, what is the role of sin in the born-again believer's life? Can a Christian still sin, and if so, will this sin corrupt the new spirit as was in the case with Adam. What provisions has God made to protect this newly created spirit from sin? Must we keep getting born-again every time we sin? Nonsense, God has a very particular plan He established before the foundation of the world to keep us and protect us from sin. Our justification is sure and steadfast. We can never lose or have our justification taken from an outside source. Romans 8:38-39- <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to **separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**



However, I believe, although this is very hard to imagine anyone doing this; one can give up and surrender his justification by denouncing Christ in his heart and giving himself over to the darkness. This is extremely rare, but man still has free will, and if he reviles and rejects the one thing that can protect himself from sin, namely Jesus, then this man has given himself over to his reprobate mind, specifically the sinful nature, and will be judged accordingly. Hebrews 6:4-6- <sup>4</sup> For in the case of those who have **once been enlightened** and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made **partakers of the Holy Spirit**, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and *then* have **fallen away**, it is **impossible to renew them again to repentance**, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and **put Him to open shame**. If you are putting Jesus to open shame, denouncing Him, rejecting Him, you are not one of His. I know this can be extremely controversial, but this is a matter of the heart only God can judge. We cannot judge these things. All I can do is continue trusting in God and know His desire is for all come to Him and be saved. He will make the right decision in these matters and I put my full trust in Him.

Now, back to my original statement, we can never lose or have our justification taken from an outside source. Not even the devil with all his demons and demonic influence can take away my justification in Jesus. So now I ask, how can our justification be so sure and steadfast that nothing can separate us from the love of God? What has God done to make it impossible for the Adam scenario to ever happen again? The answer: as always, is Jesus. Jesus is the difference and Jesus is the reason our newly created spirit will never fall under sin.

This new covenant is not a covenant between God and man, it is only between the Father and Jesus. When God made a covenant with Abraham, Paul tells us in Galatians, he made the covenant of promise to the Seed, that

is Christ. Galatians 3:16- Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and **to his Seed**. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, “And **to your Seed,**” **that is, Christ**.

Galatians 3:19- <sup>19</sup> ... **to Whom (Jesus) the promise had been made**. The covenant God made with Abraham promised the Messiah to be born through his lineage. The covenant of the promise of eternal life was guaranteed by a covenant to the Seed, who is Christ.

This covenant of the promise of eternal life in Jesus through the Holy Spirit is unbreakable. It will endure for eternity because the Father and the Son are immutable. This answers why the covenant will never be broken, but how does that affect me and my newly created spirit? How does this keep sin from corrupting my pure and perfect spirit? The answer: again, is Jesus, namely the blood of Jesus.

Jesus is our Passover, (1 Cor 5:7, Jn 1:29). Christ died on the anniversary of Passover, 14<sup>th</sup> of Nissan, 33AD. Was this a coincidence? Not at all. This sacrifice, on this day, was planned before the foundation of the world. In fact, Jesus wasn't crucified on the Passover celebrating the anniversary of the festival. The festival was celebrating the death of Jesus, they simply didn't know it yet. God, who is outside of time, established the Passover in the Exodus on the anniversary of Jesus' death. God used the sacrificial lamb of the Passover at the time of the Exodus as a type and foreshadow of Jesus' death who is our Passover, the Lamb of God.

Jesus became the final sacrifice for sin, so why did God chose the Passover instead of Yom Kippur, which is the actual Jewish festival of the sacrifice for the atonement of sins? There are two reasons God organized the climax of all the ages to take place on the Passover and not Yom Kippur:

Reason 1: the Passover is a non-Jewish event. It happened before the Law was in place. The blood of the Passover lamb was available to all who would accept it. If Pharaoh would have put the blood on the lintel of his house, I guarantee even he would have been saved from God's wrath. **Romans 3:22- even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.**

Reason 2: the Passover concept is the means by which God keeps sin and the effects of sin from permeating our new and perfect spirit. The blood of our Passover Lamb, Jesus, is covering our perfect spirit, hindering, and protecting sin's effect in any way. The sin, in a sense, passes over our spirit because of the covering of the blood of Jesus. Jesus paid the price for sin, and accepted the just wrath of sin from the Father. Because sin is paid for by the blood of the Lamb, there is no more debt to sin, which is death.

Anytime sin comes around trying to collect its payment from anyone covered by the blood of Jesus, it holds up the receipt that says, "Τετέλεσται- tetelestai: paid in full" The debt of sin has already been paid by my Savior, I am free!

1 John 1:7<sup>b</sup>- ... the **blood of Jesus** His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 Peter 1:18-19- <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things ... <sup>19</sup> but with **precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **the blood of Christ.**

Ephesians 1:7- In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Colossians 1:20- and through Him to **reconcile all things to Himself**, having made peace **through the blood of His cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Since my old spirit, inflicted with sin, was buried and thrown away, and the blood of Jesus covers my new spirit, hindering the corrupt effects of sin; why do I need forgiveness of sins?

The term forgiveness of sins is a very common saying in the bible. In the English language, we have come to associate the term forgiveness of sin with the atonement of sin. Atonement of sin was practiced under the old covenant because the blood of an animal could only cover the sin of man instead of completely removing sin in its entirety. The blood of Jesus is strong enough to completely abolish sin, not merely atone for it. Jesus only had to offer His blood once in the Holy of Holies, not made with hands, as the final sacrifice for sin. He also administered the sacrifice Himself, as our High Priest, after He was resurrected. There are two Greek words for forgiveness, ἄφεσις, aphesis and Χαρισάμενος, charisamenos. Neither word describes the concept of atonement or to cover up.

Aphesis means to leave, to cancel, release, unfasten. In this definition, our sin is cancelled, released, unfastened, literally cut off and buried with Christ.

charisamenos- to give, grant, grace. This word is very interesting. It means to give or grant. Its root word is charis, which is the Greek word for grace. Our sins are abolished, completely removed, by grace, as a free gift of God.

Colossians 1:13-14- <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, **the forgiveness** (ἄφεσις, aphesis) of sins.

Colossians 2:13- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven** (Χαρισάμενος, charisamenos) us all our transgressions,

We, in truth, do not have an atonement for sins. Our sins are not covered up, but completely abolished, crucified, and buried with Christ, administered by Jesus through the grace of God by faith.

## The Inheritance of the Children of God

The process of justification is wholly conditional on the work of Christ and not on any merit of ourselves. And, as I stated above, it is not even our responsibility to fulfill the requirements and maintain the covenant of the promise. It is exclusively between the Father and Jesus. So how is it we can partake in this covenant of promise if we don't have a cooperative role in it? Answer: it is by the grace of God and His love for us that allows us to partake of this amazing promise. We only need to accept His invitation to become a part of His family. By this simple act, a transformation takes place, as we have discussed above, and we become children of God, and heirs to the promise with Jesus. But even though we are heirs, the covenant is still between the Father and Jesus. Our heirship is a free gift, administered to us by our High Priest Jesus.

**Galatians 3:29-** And if you belong to Christ (if you have accepted His invitation to be a part of His family), then you are Abraham's descendants, **heirs according to promise.**

Romans 8:15-17- <sup>15</sup> ... but you have received a **spirit of adoption as sons** by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God,** <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ,** if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant, the propitiation for our sins. Again, this does not mean an atonement for our sins, but the avenue by which sins are abolished, and the administration of grace given to all who believe.

Hebrews 9:15- For this reason He is the **mediator of a new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the **redemption of the transgressions** that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may **receive the promise of the eternal inheritance**.

1 John 2:2- and He Himself is the **propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also for *those* of the whole world.

Jesus is our High Priest, chosen to administer the inheritance to those that believe in Him. This is a responsibility God established before the foundation of the world. He set the example with the high priests of the old covenant, foreshadowing Jesus as our High Priest, and the administration of His inheritance. The inheritance is eternal life with the Father. The promise spoken to Abraham and to his Seed was the promise of eternal life in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Jesus had faith in this promise, knowing when the covenant was established, He could then administer the effects of the promise to all those that believe in Him. Thus, fulfilling the gospel which was preached to Abraham saying, “**in Him, all the nations will be blessed**”, (Gal 3:8). Jesus, like Abraham, was fully persuaded, “**that what the Father had promised, He was also able to perform**”, (Rom 4:21). Jesus went to the cross with faith, trusting the Father to rescue Him from the pit of hell, and bless Him with the inheritance, the promise of eternal life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. This was the Word prophesied by David in which Jesus held onto by faith as He was entering hell. Psalm 16:8-11- <sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; **My flesh**

also will dwell securely. <sup>10</sup> For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. <sup>11</sup> You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

*Jesus conquered the grave and was raised from the dead*

Romans 8:11- But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead... Acts 2:24- “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. Acts 13:30-35- <sup>30</sup> “But God raised Him from the dead; ... <sup>33</sup> that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’ <sup>34</sup> “As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: ‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.’ <sup>35</sup> “Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’

Jesus acquired His inheritance of the new covenant when He presented His blood to the Father, (Heb 9:11-12, 24). Jesus’ blood was a perfect sacrifice, satisfying and fulfilling the Law in its entirety. The Father accepted His sacrifice, exalted Him, and gave Jesus the Name which is above all names, (Phil 2:9-11). Jesus is our High Priest, and through His grace and love, He administers His inheritance to all who believe.

Ezekiel 46:16- ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “If the prince gives a gift out of his inheritance to any of his sons, it shall belong to his sons; it is their possession by inheritance.

Ezekiel 44:28- “And it shall be with regard to an inheritance for them, that I am their inheritance; ... I am their possession.

Hebrews 9:15- ... He is the **mediator of a new covenant**, so that, ... those who have been called may **receive the promise of the eternal inheritance**.

### In Conclusion

Sin no longer dominates us if we are born-again. Our new spirit is completely pure, spotless and without sin, covered by the blood of Jesus, never to be tainted with sin again.

We have a new master, Jesus, controlling our life, but we must yield to His commands and strive every day to separate ourselves from sin and the things of this world. This is the process of sanctification. Every Christian has a free-will choice to continue in Jesus or live under the bondage of sin. If a Christian decides to abide in Jesus and allow the Word of God to abide in him, we have a promise from Jesus saying, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him, (John 14:23).

*How wonderful that is; I in Him and He in me.  
This is everlasting happiness and the fullness of joy.*

The key to this process of justification is the Word of God. It can happen for anyone who hears, understands, and obeys the Word, even when the Word isn't actually written. For us American Christians, bibles are very common and can be easily obtained, but for others in oppressive governments, in different countries, owning a bible can be a rare and dangerous thing. This however, will not stop the Word from being spread.



The bible is not the Word's principle form. The Word of God is Jesus, Jn 1:1, 14- "In the beginning was the Word. Revelation 22:13- "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The message of the Word of God will not be hindered. Therefore, somebody without a bible could get a vision of Jesus, or somehow have the Word administered to them apart from the physical, penned Word. They would have the same experience of justification as someone else who had the written Word administered.

This is how the Old Testament believers were credited righteousness before the written gospel. As in the case of Abraham, Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians 3:8- **The Scripture**, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham**, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." The Word of God was administered to Abraham, even without the written Word, and because he believed the Word, it was credited to him as righteousness. We could say the same thing about Adam and Eve, Noah, Job, Jethro, the priest of Midian (Abraham's father in law), Melchizedek, and many others who received and believed the Word of God before the gospel was written in physical form.

But now that we have the Word in its written form, Peter tells us we have a more sure word of prophecy. Even more than when God Himself spoke down from heaven, (2Peter 1:19). One important thing to remember with anything apart from the written Word, as in a vision or message, if it is truly from God, it will always confirm and align with the written Word. There will never be any contradictions. John gives us this written warning in the book of Revelation 22:18-19- <sup>18</sup> I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy,

God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. Paul also tells us in the book of Galatians 1:8- But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

The written Word, and the study of His Word, is vital to spiritual growth. We see in the first three centuries how Christianity blossomed as a result of the gospel being preached, written and read. The New Testament was written within the first century by the Holy Spirit through the apostles and appointed men of God. For the next 400 years following, there were great men, lead of the Spirit who wrote their commentaries on the scriptures. Not adding to the gospel, but giving us insight and clarification to the gospel of Christ. These were the men of the next generations like Polycarp, Ignatius, Irenaeus, Chrysostom, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Augustine, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Eusebius and many others. These men helped shape Christianity, along with the countless men and women who gave their lives for the gospel. Then, as time went on, and the Word spread throughout the world, men started to do what men do. They used the gospel for selfish advantage, power, and control. They started using the influence of Christianity to gain power and ambition apart from the will of God. The language of the Bible, namely Greek, Hebrew and Latin, began to be a privileged language. Only learned people could know the Truth of the Word. As men progressed in gaining carnal power through the domination of the Word, they used this power to deceive the people. Pronouncing only the council of the Catholic church qualified to hear from God. The chosen men of the papacy were the only ones able and authorized to council people according the Word. The Catholic church claimed only the leaders of the papacy were the exclusive group chosen by God to administer and read the Scriptures. Of course, this is utter non-sense, but the carnal ways of man

are selfish and foolish. This depravation of God's Word put the whole world into what is known as the Dark Ages. For hundreds of years, mankind did not progress in temporal or spiritual matters. Without the Word of God there is no life, there is no drive for the things of God. Finally, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, a time came when God had people who would take a stand for His Word. People of the Reformation who reformed Christianity back toward the Truth and the Light of His Word. Men of God like Martin Luther, Phillip Melanchthon, Jacques Lefèvre, William Farel, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, William Tyndale, John Foxe and many others who took a stand for the Word of God, and made it available to everyone, especially the common people. Translating the Bible into the common languages of the times: German, French and English. These men brought the Light of Jesus to the world, and many of them gave their lives to do so. They reformed the thinking of men by protesting the ways of the Catholic church, and bringing everyone into the fellowship and freedom of Jesus Christ by His Word. Thus, deeming the term "The Protestant Reformation".

The sixteenth century brought men out of the Dark Ages, and the progression of temporal and spiritual matters started to develop. Technology advanced, America, known as the new world, was discovered only eight years before the sixteenth century, the most famous dynasty in England happened in the 1500's, namely Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth, and many other break throughs in history commenced in this century. I am convinced this advancement; the dawn of this new age, did not come into being because of man's ingenuity. Man had already proved for over 1,000 years he couldn't make things better. The age of enlightenment came as a result of the insight and knowledge of the Word shown forth to mankind. Rescuing people, not only out of the dark ages, but also out of the kingdom of darkness, into His marvelous light, the kingdom of God's dear Son.

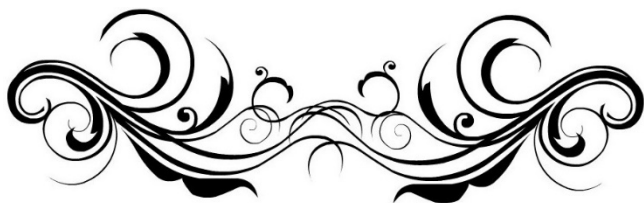
The Bible is more than merely a written document. The words it  
contains is life, and those that find Jesus in these words  
will find peace and everlasting life,  
(Prov 4:22, Jn 6:63, Rom 8:6)

God loves us more than we can imagine. He is doing, and has done  
everything He can to save us from the bondage of sin and death by bringing  
us into His family as children of God. All we must do, is accept His gift of  
grace that He has so freely bestowed on us. This happens by believing in  
His Son Jesus, who gave His life for us, that we might have eternal life with  
Him.

Let us read Romans 8 with this new understanding we have now learned  
about the bondage of the soul and the freedom in Christ.

Romans 8- <sup>1</sup> So now there is no condemnation for those who  
belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, **the  
power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of  
sin** that leads to death. <sup>3</sup> The law of Moses was unable to save us  
because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what  
the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the  
bodies we sinners have. And in that body **God declared an end  
to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our  
sins.** <sup>4</sup> He did this so that the just requirement of the law would  
be fully satisfied for us, who **no longer follow our sinful nature  
but instead follow the Spirit.** <sup>5</sup> Those who are dominated by the  
sinful nature think about sinful things, but **those who are  
controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the**

**Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But **letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.** <sup>7</sup> For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. <sup>8</sup> That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. **You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.** (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) <sup>10</sup> And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, **the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.** <sup>11</sup> The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And **just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, **you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.** [as in times past when you were still under the bondage of sin] <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But **if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.** <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, **you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.** Now we call him, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. <sup>18</sup> Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later....<sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?...<sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, **overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.** <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love ....**



Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate  
us from the love of God that is revealed  
in Christ Jesus our  
Lord.

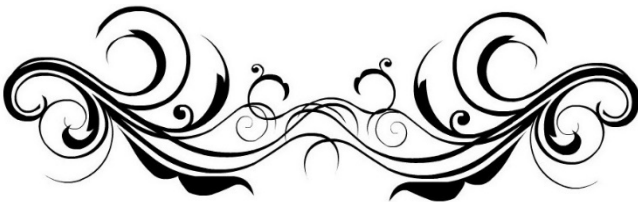


## Conclusion



his writing has been an attempt to explain and discuss the fundamental principles of justification. In doing so, my goal was to get the reader to think about these principles that so many of us take for granted; topics like good works, faith, grace, predestination, etc. My main objective was to prove to the reader just how corrupt mankind is without God, and how very much we need Jesus. Without Him we are nothing, destined for an eternity of torment, but with Him, we are set free from sin and death and made alive in Him. With Him we have eternal joy and everlasting peace that we cannot find anywhere else apart from Him. In Him we are made perfect and complete, reconciled together with the Father, destined for everlasting happiness in Him.

Grace and Peace to you from our  
Lord Jesus Christ



## Faith scriptures to meditate on



Romans 12:3- For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each the measure of (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture).

Luke 17:5- The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our (ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture)!”

Matthew 8:10- Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great (ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) with anyone in Israel.

Mark 11:22-24- <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) in God. <sup>23</sup> “Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him. <sup>24</sup> “Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.

Mark 2:5- And Jesus seeing their (ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and



understanding the Scripture) said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Acts 3:16- “And on the basis of (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Acts 6:5- The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Romans 1:17- For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY (THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN JESUS AND ACCEPT THE FREE GIFT OF GRACE AS A RESULT OF HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURE).”

Romans 3:28- For we maintain that a man is justified by (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) apart from works of the Law.

Galatians 3:8- The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture), preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, “ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.”

Romans 10:8-10- <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) which we are preaching, <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15- and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) which is in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:4-5- <sup>4</sup> For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our (ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture). <sup>5</sup> Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Hebrews 11:1- Now (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:3- By (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Hebrews 11:6- And without (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and

understanding the Scripture) it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:8-10- <sup>8</sup> By (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By (the ability to believe in Jesus and accept the free gift of grace as a result of hearing and understanding the Scripture) he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; <sup>10</sup> for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

# THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTIFICATION

the bondage of the will, the freedom in Christ

A book on the fundamental elements concerning our  
justification in Jesus.

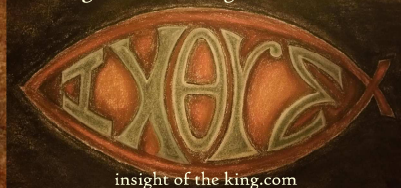
What does it mean to be declared righteous? And how does our  
will interact with the will of God?

Are we really free to choose God or are we subject to a  
predestined fate?

In this first volume, of a three volume set, we explore the  
mechanics of salvation starting with the first step of  
justification in Jesus, and the freedom we have in Christ.

ISBN: 978-1-947266-00-1

Insight of the King Publications



by Zack Rosiere