



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#105)
Results of faith (#3).

When FAITH is genuine, EVERYTHING changes!

Results Of FAITH:

- ✓ Other parts of the "process of salvation."
- ✓ (in general) Salvation and eternal life.

SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCES:

- ✓ Changes in our relationship to God.
- ✓ Changes in our relationship to sin.
- ✓ Increasing righteousness and obedience.
- ✓ **Changes related to our spiritual condition/growth.**
- ✓ [and more to come]

TODAY →

Scripture says a lot more about these issues. We have only looked at a few verses that show a direct connection to faith/trust/believing.

OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION.

Things HAVE Changed!

★ We are blessed by God! ★

DEFINITION? An internal happiness that is based on our relationship with God, rather than on changing external circumstances. It can exist in both pleasant and unpleasant circumstances... even in times of persecution! (See Matthew 5:3-12.)

... those who have **faith** are *blessed* ...

Galatians 3:9 (CSB)

"*Blessed* are those who have not seen [Jesus] and yet **believe**."

John 20:29 (CSB)

We will see him someday. Right now, to be blessed, all we need is a willingness to base our lives on the confirmed factual testimony of those who already saw him!

★ Our greatest needs are satisfied! ★

[The world might not even admit these needs.]

- ✓ **NO MORE HUNGER AND THIRST [= SPIRITUAL NEEDS MET].**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never go hungry, and the one who **believes** in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35 (NET)

- ✓ **NO LONGER IN SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. [JESUS IS THE LIGHT!]**

"**Believe** in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light."

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who **believes** in me should stay in darkness."

John 12:36a, 46 (NIV)

★ We become recipients of God's promises! ★

ABOUT THESE PROMISES:
They're all guaranteed, but some of them are not for NOW.

- For some, the ultimate fulfillment is still future – especially those promises that are described as our "inheritance."

All these [Old Testament] people died still **believing** what God had **promised** them. They did not receive what was **promised**, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it.

Hebrews 11:13 (NLT)

All these people earned a good reputation because of their **faith**, yet none of them received all that God had **promised**.

Hebrews 11:39 (NLT)

HERE ARE SOME OF GOD'S PROMISES:

- ✓ **REST – RECONCILIATION AND PEACE WITH GOD.**

We can rest from all attempts to earn salvation. There is also a promise of future rest from all of life's trials.

God's **promise** of entering his rest still stands, ... For only we who **believe** can enter his rest. ... For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, ...

Heb 4:1a, 3a, 10a (NLT)

- ✓ **LIFE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the **promises** of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin [⇒ it condemns us as guilty], so that what was **promised**, being given through **faith** in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who **believe**.

Galatians 3:21, 22 (NIV)

✓ THE HOLY SPIRIT.

... so that we who are **believers** might receive the **promised Holy Spirit** through **faith**.

Galatians 3:14b (NLT)

✓ A FUTURE INHERITANCE **GUARANTEED** BY THE PROMISED SPIRIT.

And you [Gentiles] also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you **believed**, you were marked in him with a seal, **the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit **guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NIV)

- This inheritance is **eternal**.

[Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the **promise of the eternal inheritance**, ...

Hebrews 9:15a (CSB)

7

- This inheritance includes the world.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the **promise** that he would be **heir of the world**, but through the righteousness that comes by **faith**.

Romans 4:13 (CSB)

- This inheritance includes a kingdom.

... he has **promised**, ... we are receiving **a kingdom that cannot be shaken**, ...

Hebrews 12:26b, 28b (CSB)

- Attaining this inheritance requires **both** faith and patience.

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through **faith** and **patience inherit** what has been **promised**.

Romans 6:12 (NIV)

8

HOW DID WE GET THESE PROMISES?

★ THESE PROMISES GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO ABRAHAM. ★

- He **trusted** God, when God made an "impossible" promise to him.

Without weakening in his **faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through **unbelief** regarding the **promise** of God, but was strengthened in his **faith** and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had **promised**.

Romans 4:19-21 (NIV)

- He didn't receive the promise through "Law-keeping," but by **faith**.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the **promise** that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by **faith**.

Romans 4:13 (CSB)

9

- These promises COULD NOT come through obeying the Law.

If it **were** possible, there would be no need for promises and faith. But it **isn't** possible. Trying it results in wrath, not blessing.

If those who are of the law are heirs, **faith** is made empty and the **promise** nullified, because the law produces wrath.

Romans 4:114-15a (CSB)

→ **WHY?** The law can only imprison us because of **our sin**. (There is nothing wrong with the law itself.)

The commandment that was meant for life resulted in death for me. For **sin**, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me, and through it **killed me**. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.

Romans 7:10b-12 (CSB)

10

- These promises DID NOT come from doing rituals, such as circumcision.

Circumcision wasn't commanded for attaining salvation, but was a symbol of Abraham's **already-existing** righteousness from God – a righteousness that came through **trust** in God.

And he received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the **righteousness** that he had by **faith** while still uncircumcised.

Romans 4:11 (CSB)

Even under the **OLD** Covenant, **none** of these things saved people.

- Before Jesus came, people had to **trust** God to deal with their sin.
- Back then, they didn't know all the details about **how** it would be accomplished; but today, we understand that God did it through Jesus.

11

★ THE APPLICATION OF THESE PROMISES TO US. ★

- Because Abraham **trusted** God, he became the "spiritual father" of all who have a similar **trust** in God. This includes **us!**

As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he **believed**—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope **believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Romans 4:17-18 (NIV); quoting Genesis 17:5 and 15:5.

- If we have the type of **trust** that Abraham had, then we are considered his **spiritual offspring!**

Just as Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, so then, understand that those who **believe** are the sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:6-7 (NET)

12

- His spiritual offspring includes both Jews and Gentiles.

So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have **faith** but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their **faith**.

And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of **faith** Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Romans 4:11b-12 (NLT)

- As Abraham's spiritual offspring, we share Abraham's blessings.

So all who put their **faith** in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his **faith**.

Galatians 3:9 (NLT)

Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he **promised** to Abraham, so that we who are **believers** [= both Jews and Gentiles] might receive the **promised** Holy Spirit through **faith**.

Galatians 3:14 (NLT)

13

- As Abraham's spiritual offspring, the promises given to **Abraham** are also for **us**.

This is why the **promise** is by **faith**, so that it may be according to grace, to guarantee it to all the descendants—not only to the one who is of the law but also to the one who is of Abraham's **faith**. He is the father of us all.

Romans 4:16 (CSB)

- All this is through "Christ-trusting," not through "law-obeying."

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the **promises** of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.

But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin (⇒ it condemns us as guilty), so that what was **promised**, being given through **faith** in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who **believe**.

Galatians 3:21, 22 (NIV)

14

OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

Things ARE Changing!

- ★ Holiness! ★

Once people's eyes are opened, and they turn to God...

"Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and a share among God's people who are **made holy** by **believing** in me [= Jesus]."

Acts 26:18b (GW)

- ★ Wisdom! ★

(But we must be willing to **ask** and **trust** God for it.)

If any of you lacks **wisdom**, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must **believe** and not doubt, ...

James 1:5-6a (NIV)

15

- ★ Characterized by faith! ★

- ✓ BY NATURE, GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED "BELIEVERS."
(Examples: Acts 10:45; 16:1, 15.)

Those with spiritual maturity may be described as being "full of faith."

... Stephen, a man full of **faith** and of the Holy Spirit, ...

Acts 6:5b (NET)

[Barnabas] was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of **faith**, ...

Acts 11:24 (NET)

- ✓ WE CAN STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER'S FAITH.

... **strengthening** the disciples by **encouraging** them to continue in the **faith** ...

Acts 14:22a (CSB)

THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION.

So the churches were **strengthened** in the **faith** ...

Acts 16:5a (GW)

16

- ★ Joy, because of salvation! ★

When the Gentiles heard [that they could be saved], they **rejoiced** and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life **believed**.

Acts 13:48 (CSB)

[The jailer] **rejoiced** greatly that he had come to **believe** in God, together with his entire household.

Acts 16:34b (NET)

This is an **internal joy**, **not** limited by external circumstances. The following verse describes people who were going through many trials:

Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you **believe** in him, and you **rejoice** with inexpressible and glorious **joy**, because you are receiving the goal of your **faith**, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (CSB)

17

- ★ Assurance of eternal life! ★

- ✓ BASED ON THE **FACT** OF WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.

God's testimony ... is the testimony that he has given about his Son. Those who **believe** in the Son of God have **the testimony of God in them**.

This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son.

1 John 5:9b-10a, 11 (GW)

- To be valid, this fact must express itself in the way we live. (This is mentioned in other verses in the context.)

- ✓ **1 JOHN WAS WRITTEN SO THAT WE COULD HAVE THIS ASSURANCE.**

I've written this to those who **believe** in the Son of God so that **they will know that they have eternal life**.

1 John 5:13 (GW)

18

★ Assurance of direct access to God! ★

– made possible because we have been cleansed by Jesus Christ.

WE HAVE ACCESS!

- **NOW:** In Christ (who is in God's presence) and through prayer.
- **IN THE FUTURE:** When God makes his home among people.

... let us *draw near to God* with a sincere heart and with the full *assurance* that *faith* brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:22 (NIV)

ASSURANCE/CONFIDENCE?

- ✓ These "assurance" statements are facts for those who are truly saved.
- ✓ But how do we know they apply to us? Or, what if we "feel" weak and "unassured"? *As our faith grows (along with the results – "fruit" – of faith), our assurance/confidence can also grow.*

19

YOUR MISSION:

Rejoice
in these blessings!

And Pray that you can share them with others!

= THOSE WHO DON'T YET HAVE THEM.

IF THESE BLESSINGS DON'T APPLY TO YOU: Then pursue Jesus and his righteousness. Let him create in you a love for God and neighbor.

Then these blessings will be yours, as well!

20

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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21