



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- 2 Peter 1:1-2, 5
- Matthew 7:21-27

FAITH LIKE MINE

- Who and Why?
- The Firm Foundation

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“Simon **Peter**, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a **like precious faith** with us **in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**” 2 Peter 1:1

WEBUS

“for **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, that no one would boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 WEBUS

“Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;” Romans 5:1 WEBUS

“Don’t be deceived, my beloved brothers. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.” James 1:16-17 WEBUS

“**Grace to you and peace be multiplied** in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,” 2 Peter 1:2 WEBUS

“through whom **we also have** our **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
Romans 5:2 WEBUS

“Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence, in your faith** supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;” 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

“For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:10 WEBUS

“What good is it, my brothers, **if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?**” James 2:14 WEBUS

“Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead** in itself. Yes, a man will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” **Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**” James 2:17-18 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: Faith Like Mine

In the Good News of Christ God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith. Why two faiths and not one? Surely faith should be unified into a single concept; God's righteousness is revealed in faith. But, that would be like saying a man who receives a great inheritance from his father would be considered a good steward of that inheritance regardless of what he does with it. The man who

guards it and does nothing; and the man who squanders it with wasteful spending; and the man who makes wise investments or uses it to grow into new successful enterprises, should all be considered equally as faithful. But that isn't reality; to be truly faithful a man must go from faith to faith—from the free gift of faith to the practice of faith!

Jesus sat at the Last Supper table and delivered to His disciples His most prophetic mandate—this is what is coming and this is who you will be. And He made it clear that He was extending that mandate to a world beyond that table. His petition just hours before His execution: “Father, I pray that My disciples grasp this profound revelation and calling, and to embrace that it doesn't end with them. It is for every disciple who will ever come to faith in Me, because I now commission them to preach this message—as You sent Me into the world, I now send them into the world. My ultimate desire is that this truth would perfectly unify God's people, as if they are one person, as We are indeed One Person.”

Peter sat at that table and heard His Savior's heart. Many years later he knew, just prior to his own execution, that he too must leave a legacy. He would write to his disciples and by extension his words were meant to touch us all; “This letter is to those who have obtained a like precious faith. It is first addressed to all those who have received the gift of faith. But ultimately it's for those who wish

to obtain a second type of faith like mine—to walk the narrow road from faith to faith. It’s a faith I obtained for free that is on a journey of faith that I was obedient to practice. The instructions in this letter will explain how.” Yes, two faiths—and dead is the former without the latter.

WHO AND WHY

1. Who is Peter and why 2 Peter?

A. A quick review about the man and his letter

- (1) Author and Audience
 - (a) From Peter: The Fisherman
 - (b) To all people with faith in and from Jesus.
- (2) Why did he write the letter?
 - (a) To make mature disciples; to help them grow in their faith; to warn them about a number of key issues
 - (b) To codify in writing a discipleship model to teach Christians how to practice their faith
 - (c) To inspire God’s people with a sense of urgency
 - (d) To confirm prophecy
- (3) Is this new information?
 - (a) No, it’s a reminder for his first century readers!

- (b) He is writing things down for posterity, so when he is gone, we would always have this information in which to refer—for them and for us!
 - (c) **Special Emphasis:** Clearly this is what Peter was using to disciple first century believers, and yet for modern Christians this model is almost completely unknown.
- (4) From where is Peter writing this letter?
- (a) A prison cell in Rome shortly before his execution
 - 1. Likely during the reign of Nero when Christians faced severe persecution—sometime during AD 64–67 (same estimated date of Paul’s death).
- (5) When did he write the letter?
- (a) At the end of his life! It’s his [Last Will & Testament](#)
 - (b) He’s about to die and he knows it!
 - (c) How does he know? Jesus showed him, so he can be really certain!
 - (d) Paul’s Equivalent: His Last Will & Testament (2 Timothy)
 - 1. Critical Personal Questions:
 - a) Who would you write to if you knew you were in the final moments before death?
 - 1) Your loved ones!
 - b) Where would you place the most important information in your letter?

- 1) You don't know how much time you have left; you might have minutes, or hours, or days, or weeks, etc., but you have no guarantees.
 - 2) Obviously, you would write the most important information at the beginning of the letter.
 - c) What would you write about?
 - 1) Only things which are of critical importance.
- (6) What was Peter's profession? (Matthew 4)
- (a) Original Profession: A Commercial Fishermen
 - (b) New Profession: A Fisher of Men
 - (c) Peter had a few glitches along the way...
 1. Peter rebuked Jesus and was then rebuked. "*Get behind me, Satan!*" (Mark 8)
 - a) He tended to be impetuous. (See: [Stay in the Boat](#))
 2. Three Denials: before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times. (Matthew 26)
 - a) Three denials... Requires three restorations!
 - (d) Peter's Restored Profession (John 21)
 1. "*I'm going fishing.*" He went back to his old ways!
 - a) Making Disciples (Restored three times)
 - 1) Feed my lambs (make new baby believers)
 - 2) Tend my sheep (grow babies into disciples)
 - 3) Feed my Sheep (disciple the disciples)

(e) Qualities of a Fishermen

1. Not Educated: Peter is a simple fisherman; Paul is trained scholar.
2. With whom would you prefer to begin your training?
3. Peter creates the framework; Paul hangs the details. It's like he builds the skeleton and Paul hangs the muscle, tendons, ligaments, organs, and skin.
4. Peter's letter is a step-by-step program for growth—from salvation to the ultimate maturity.
5. Peter organizes his plan just as you'd expect from a man who fished for a living. It's simple, systematic, predictable, measurable, effective, consistent and duplicatable.
6. It won't take a genius to learn, nor teach.
7. A fisherman must be able to work as part of a team, be patient, committed, knowledgeable, and disciplined.
8. He must be dedicated, persistent, strong, and capable of simple communication.
9. He must overcome frustration and be able to persevere until he gets the result he wants.
10. He begins with a strategy to be successful.

11. Appreciates the need to maintain his vessel and equipment.
12. A fisherman: cast a net to first catch all the fish!
13. A fisher of men: then sort the fish to keep or discard!

THE FIRM FOUNDATION

2. Faith is Everything: The Gift and the Practice

A. Introduction

- (1) Faith like Mine...
 - (a) My Two Faiths: From faith to faith
 1. Peter wrote to his disciples and by extension his words were meant to touch us all; “This letter is to those who have obtained a like precious faith.
 2. It is first addressed to all those who have received the gift of faith.
 3. But ultimately it’s for those who wish to obtain a second type of faith like mine—to walk the narrow road from faith to faith.
 4. It’s a faith I obtained for free on a journey of faith I was obedient to practice.
 5. Yes, two faiths—dead is the former without the latter.

a) *“What good is it, my brothers, **if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?**”*

James 2:14 WEBUS

(b) Paul described these two faiths perfectly!

1. From Faith to Faith

a) *“For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, because it is **the power of God for salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek. For **in it is revealed God’s righteousness from faith to faith**. As it is written,*

“But the righteous shall live by faith.”” Romans

1:16-17 WEBUS

1) It’s the *Power Source* of Your born again experience and...

2) It’s the *Power Source* of the way you live after that!

(c) Bookends: Faith and Obedience

1. *“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, that **your faith is proclaimed throughout the***

***whole world.**”* Romans 1:8 WEBUS

a) A faith so strong that it has become known worldwide!

2. “For **your obedience has become known to all.** I rejoice therefore over you. But I desire to have you wise in that which is good, but innocent in that which is evil.” Romans 16:19 WEBUS

a) Your obedience to the faith has become known worldwide!

1) “***through whom*** we received grace and apostleship ***for obedience of faith*** among all the nations for his name’s sake;” Romans 1:5
WEBUS

(d) How? From the Rock of our salvation! Faith on the Rock or Faith on Sand

1. ““**Not everyone** who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, **but he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. **Many will tell me** in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?’ **Then I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.’** “Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his **house on a rock**. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew

and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock. **Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't do them** will be like a foolish man who built his **house on the sand**. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell—and its fall was great.”” Matthew 7:21-27 WEBUS

- a) On the Rock: Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine and does them.
- b) On Sand: Everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't do them.
- c) It's either one or the other! You can't have it both ways!
 - 1) *“Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation nor turning shadow.**”* James 1:16-17 WEBUS

(e) Fading Images: those who hear but don't do!

- 1. **“But be doers of the word, and not only hearers,** deluding your own selves. For if **anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror;** for he sees himself, and

goes away, and **immediately forgets** what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of freedom and **continues, not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work**, this man will be blessed in what he does." James 1:22-25 WEBUS

2. "What good is it, my brothers, **if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?**" James 2:14 WEBUS
3. "Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead** in itself. Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works." **Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.**" James 2:17-18 WEBUS
4. "Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? **You see that faith worked with his works, and by works faith was perfected.** So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. **You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.**" James 2:21-24 WEBUS
5. "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, **even so faith apart from works is dead.**" James 2:26 WEBUS

- a) Could it be more clear?
- 1) Hearing without doing is evidence that your faith is not real and therefore is not a saving faith—it's a dead faith.
 - 2) Authentic faith is proven by action.
 - 3) Consistent action is what grows one's faith into maturity.
 - 4) Sure a man is justified by faith, but it is not really faith unless it is proven by a change in what a man does, thus a man who is truly justified by faith will display evidence.
 - 5) That is exactly what Abraham did, the father of faith; his belief was an act of faith. Had he not acted, his faith would have been dead.

(f) He caused us to be born again...

1. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **according to his great mercy caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance** that doesn't fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, who **by the power of God** are **guarded through faith for a salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time. In this

you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved in various trials, that **the proof of your faith**, which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ— whom, not having known, you love. In him, though now you don't see him, yet believing, you rejoice greatly with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory, **receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**" 1 Peter 1:3-9

WEBUS

- a) Born again: only by God's mercy
 - b) Proof of faith: tested by fire
 - c) Guards our faith: the power of God
 - d) The reward: perfect permanent inheritance
- (g) Do something with your faith!
1. "As **each has received a gift, employ it [minister it]** in serving one another, as good **managers [stewards]** of the **grace** of God in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10
- WEBUS
2. "**By grace** you have been saved **through faith... it is the gift of God...** created in Christ Jesus **for good works...**" Ephesians 2:8, 10

- a) Faith was a gift, now use it to minister!
- b) The gift came through God's grace; now be a good steward of His grace!

B. The Gift of Faith

(1) The Gift of Faith

(a) Everything must be filtered through your faith!

1. "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have **obtained a like precious faith** with us **in the righteousness** of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:" 2 Peter 1:1 WEBUS

a) This is the faith that every believer in Christ is given as a free gift.

b) It come from Christ's righteousness alone.

1) Critical Error: "*For being **ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they didn't subject themselves to **the righteousness of God.** For **Christ is the fulfillment of the law for righteousness** to everyone who believes.***"

Romans 10:3-4 WEBUS

(b) Becoming a child of God is easy...

1. "But **as many as received him**, to them he gave **the right to become God's children**, to those who **believe**

in his name: who were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.**"

John 1:12-13 WEBUS

a) The right to enter the family of God...

1) Believe in Him...

2) Receive Him in your heart...

3) You are born-gain!

2. **Believe what?** "For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only born Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have **eternal life.**" John 3:16

WEBUS

a) Believe what?

1) Y'shua (Jesus) is the only Son of God

3. **Believe how?** "that if you will **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved. {13} For, "Whoever will **call on the name of the Lord** will be saved.'" Romans 10:9, 13 WEBUS

a) How?

1) Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. This is the testimony that there has been a change in your heart.

- 2) Then openly declare His name from your own lips and that He was raised from the grave!
4. **God must act first:** “Jesus answered him, “Most certainly I tell you, **unless one is born anew**, he can’t see God’s Kingdom.”” John 3:3 WEBUS
 - a) Without first having a new heart, it can’t Happen:
 - 1) In order to pursue the kingdom, one must be born again.
 5. **Unless God grants repentance:** “The Lord’s servant must not quarrel, but be gentle toward all, able to teach, patient, in gentleness correcting those who oppose him. **Perhaps God may give them repentance leading to a full knowledge of the truth**, and they may **recover themselves out of the devil’s snare, having been taken captive by him** to do his will.” 2 Timothy 2:24-26 WEBUS
 - a) Unless God allows the truth to be known...
 - 1) You won’t know it!
 - 2) *“When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, “Then **God has also granted** to the Gentiles **repentance** to life!””* Acts 11:18 WEBUS

6. **We love Him...** “We love him, because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19 WEBUS

a) Because He love us first!

7. **Simple:** “For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ** and him **crucified.**” 1 Corinthians 2:2 WEBUS

a) It’s that simple; Christ crucified!

1) But, it would not be so simple if there was not a heart change first!

2) “*For **the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are dying**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*” 1 Corinthians 1:18 WEBUS

3) “*Now the natural man doesn’t receive the things of God’s Spirit, for **they are foolishness to him**; and he can’t know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.***” 1 Corinthians 2:14 WEBUS

(c) Like Precious Faith

1. There is only one type of faith that can redeem you and that is the same faith that Peter had. When he says that he is addressing those who have that redeeming faith and who obtained that faith like he

did, he is thereby addressing all believers and only believers!

a) Saved by...

1) “for **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, that no one would boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 WEBUS

b) Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you:

1) “He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.** I also tell you that you are Peter, and **on this rock** I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:15-18

WEBUS

c) Because of him, you are in Christ Jesus

1) “God chose the lowly things of the world, and the things that are despised, and the things that don’t exist, that he might bring to nothing the things that exist, **that no flesh should boast**

before God. Because of him, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, that, as it is written, "He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord."" 1

Corinthians 1:28-31 WEBUS

- d) In Him we become the righteousness of God.
 - 1) "We are therefore ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so **that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**" 2

Corinthians 5:20-21 WEBUS

C. The Practice of Faith

(1) Grace be multiplied!

(a) Heading

- 1. "**Grace** to you and **peace be multiplied** in the **knowledge** of God and of Jesus our Lord," 2 Peter 1:2 WEBUS
- 2. "Yes, and for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence, in your faith** supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;" 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

- a) After the gift of faith has made you a child of God:
 - 1) Your job is to practice that faith
 - 2) This is the clear two-step process!
 - 3) The entire 2 peter process is the practice of faith...

(b) Knowledge Multiplied

1. “For this cause I also, **having heard of the faith** in the Lord Jesus which is among you and the love which you have toward all the saints, don’t cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you **a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and **what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe**, according to that working of the strength of his might which he worked in Christ **when he raised him from the dead** and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is

to come. He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things for the assembly, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:15-23 WEBUS

- a) You will need your knowledge multiplied by divine revelation to grasp what is available!
 - b) The promises about what you have access to as a child of God will be elaborated upon and emphasized in the coming weeks as we work through 2 Peter!
 - c) Here are just a few to wrap your mind around, of which we all might agree, it will take *"revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened"* to even come close to grasping the magnitude of what you can have, should you choose the path of a disciple and don't just settle for happy convert!
 - 1) Access to divine power
 - 2) Everything you need to live a godly life
 - 3) Participation in the divine nature
- (c) You must believe in what you cannot see...
1. "Now **faith is** assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 WEBUS

(d) Without the practice of Faith, it's impossible to please Him...

1. **“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6 WEBUS

a) At times it will seem impossible to stand in your faith and thus you may feel like you are disappointing to God. What should you do?

b) Pray: Lord help my unbelief!

1) *“Jesus said to him, **“If you can believe, all things are possible** to him who believes.”*

Immediately the father of the child cried out

*with tears, **“I believe. Help my unbelief!”**”* Mark

9:23-24 WEBUS

(2) Grace and Faith

(a) In Our Obedience

1. **“for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.”** Ephesians 2:8-10 WEBUS

- a) First a convert, then comes the practice:
 - 1) God's grace touches your heart and gives you the faith to believe in the cross (no longer foolishness).
 - 2) Then, you get to work practicing your faith!
- 2. "Being therefore **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 WEBUS
 - a) A powerful self-perpetuating cycle!
 - 1) **The gift of Faith:** God's grace touches your heart and softens it to the Gospel of Salvation; the cross becomes real; you believe and confess; all sins are forgiven and you are made right in God's eyes.
 - 2) **The Practice of Faith:** When you exercise that gift of faith you gain continual access to God's grace. That will empower you to walk out your life as a Christian, leaving behind all the sin of your old life and to become a new creature. That is what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

3) **From old to new:** *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The **old** things have **passed away**. Behold, **all things have become new**.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17 WEBUS

4) **Your new life:** *“I have been crucified with Christ, and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me. **That life which I now live** in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.”*
Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

(b) Then be a faithful steward of God’s grace!

1. “As **each has received a gift, employ it [minister it]** in serving one another, as good **managers [stewards]** of the **grace** of God in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10
WEBUS

a) Faith was a gift, now use it to minister!

1) The gift came through God’s grace; now be a good steward of His grace!

2. “Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but only what is good for building others up as the need may be, **that it may give [impart] grace** to those who hear.” Ephesians 4:29 WEBUS

a) What it takes...

- 1) Guard your mouth; speak life, and impart God's grace!

D. Case Law

(1) What to do with what you've been given...

(a) The Parable of the Talents (To be faithful or unfaithful with the gift!) Matthew 25:14-30

1. *““For it is like a man going into another country, who called his own servants and **entrusted his goods** to them. **To one he gave** five talents, **to another** two, **to another** one, to each **according to his own ability**. Then he went on his journey. Immediately **he who received the five** talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. In the same way, **he also who got the two** gained another two. But **he who received the one** talent went away and dug in the earth and hid his Lord's money.”* Matthew 25:14-18 WEBUS

a) As the parable goes on to reveal, two servants were clear about the gift they were given and obediently produced something more with their faith.

1) *““His Lord said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant**. You have been faithful over a*

few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” Matthew 25:21 & 23

WEBUS

b) One servant was unfaithful and squandered the gift he was given. He was called wicked, not just because he was unfaithful, but because he knew what was expected of him, as should you!

1) *““But his Lord answered him, ‘**You wicked and slothful servant.** You knew that I reap where I didn’t sow, and gather where I didn’t scatter.”*

Matthew 25:26 WEBUS

2) **Can you see it clearly?** *“...for this very cause **adding on your part all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence; and in moral excellence, knowledge;**”* 2 Peter 1:5 WEBUS

(2) When our Lord returns...

(a) He will be looking to judge what we’ve done with the gift of faith He gave us! (See: Matthew 25:31-46)

1. *““But **when the Son of Man comes** in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Before him all the nations will be gathered, and **he will separate them one from***

another, as a shepherd separates **the sheep from the goats.**" Matthew 25:31-32 WEBUS

- a) **The sheep:** true servants who were saved by grace through faith and then lived by faith!
- b) **The goats:** unfaithful servants who squandered the offer of faith.
- c) Matthew 13:24-30: the parable of the wheat and the tares (*darnel weeds that resemble wheat*) reveals that both can appear to be servants, and it is not until the master returns (the harvest time) that they are separated.
- d) *"Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the darnel weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.""* Matthew 13:30 WEBUS

2. **True Servants/Sheep/Wheat:** *"Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?' "The King will answer them, 'Most certainly I tell you, because you did it to*

one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:37-40 WEBUS

a) Living by faith: *"because you did..."*

3. **Counterfeit Servants/Goats/Tares:** "Then he will answer them, saying, 'Most certainly I tell you, **because you didn't do it to one of the least of these, you didn't do it to me.'** These will go away into eternal **punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**" Matthew 25:45-46 WEBUS

a) Not living by faith: *"because you didn't..."*

(3) The Practice of Faith: Case Law

(a) First the born-again experience...

1. To the prostitute: *"Your sins are forgiven."*

a) *"He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Those who sat at the table with him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" He said to the woman, "**Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.**""* Luke 7:48-50 WEBUS

(b) Your obedience to the faith has made you whole!

1. A woman with an issue of blood:

a) *"He said to her, "Daughter, **your faith has made you well.** Go in peace, and be cured of your disease."* Mark 5:34 WEBUS

2. The blind man:

- a) *“Jesus said to him, “Go your way. **Your faith has made you well.**” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the way.”* Mark 10:52

WEBUS

3. The leper:

- a) *“Then he said to him, “Get up, and go your way. **Your faith has healed you.**””* Luke 17:19 WEBUS

4. Peter, John and the Lame man

- a) *“When Peter saw it, he responded to the people, “You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this man? Why do you fasten your eyes on us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? {16} **By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong,** whom you see and know. Yes, **the faith which is through him has given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all.”* Acts 3:12, 16 WEBUS

(4) [Belief is an Act of Faith](#)

(a) Case Law: Abraham (Romans 4:1-12 TIB)

1. | **Romans 4:1-4** | Let's go to Abraham as a perfect example of what I am teaching. When we consider Abraham, our forefather, how would you describe his

approach towards God? There are a few massive encounters he had with the Lord that depict the faith-based obedience we've been discussing. By faith, Abraham had to leave his homeland and head to an unknown land; by faith, Abraham had to believe the promise that his descendants would fill the earth, even though he had no son; and later, by faith Abraham had to be willing to sacrifice Isaac, the son he was given to fulfill the promise. Was it what he did that justified him? That could only be true if what he did was fueled by God's grace that empowered his faith. Otherwise his actions would be considered an attempt to be justified by works of law, which you now understand is legalism. Listen, if works of law could justify a man, and Abraham acted on his own, then he'd have something to boast about, but that is not what happened. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, as an act of faith, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Anyone who believes he is justified by works of law, the outcome of his actions could never be counted as obedience empowered by grace. Instead he would construe that

God owed him something for the work he did for God.

2. | **Romans 4:5-8** | However, the man who doesn't believe that legalism, or works of law, will save him, but believes in Him who justifies, the God whose grace empowers the ungodly toward meaningful obedience, his faith is accounted for righteousness. Even as David also pronounces blessing on the man to whom God counts righteousness apart from works of law: "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whom the Lord will by no means charge with sin."
3. | **Romans 4:9-12** | Is this blessing then pronounced only on the circumcised Jew, or on the uncircumcised Gentile also? We are emphasizing that it was faith-based obedience that God accounted to Abraham for righteousness. But what state was he in when that accounting took place? Was he already circumcised, or still uncircumcised? When the original challenge went out to Abraham to leave his land and believe his decedents would fill the earth, circumcision was not yet a thing, so he was clearly still uncircumcised. The covenant of circumcision

came later, when God reiterated His promise to fill the earth with Abraham's descendants through a son named Isaac, who was not yet born. He received the sign of circumcision, as a seal of the righteousness of the faith-based obedience he demonstrated before he was circumcised. God used that order of business so that Abraham could be considered the father of all those who believe, even those who come to faith without having previously been circumcised. Why? So all who would ever believe would recognize that righteousness is something that is imputed to them by God. In other words, for anyone to come to faith, God must first impart His grace. All the credit belongs to God and thus Abraham, the father of circumcision, is father to all; those who come to faith having already been circumcised, and those who come to faith in the same uncircumcised state as was our father Abraham when he was called to demonstrate faith-based obedience.

E. The Admonition, Commission, and Assignment

(1) The Admonition

(a) Faith without works is dead!

1. **“But be doers of the word, and not only hearers,** deluding your own selves.” James 1:22 WEBUS
 2. **“What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?”** James 2:14 WEBUS
 3. **“Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead** in itself. Yes, a man will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” **Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”** James 2:17-18 WEBUS
 4. **“You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.”** James 2:24 WEBUS
 5. **“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.”** James 2:26 WEBUS
- (b) Peter on Trials
1. **“In this you greatly rejoice,** though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved in **various trials,** that the **proof of your faith,** which is more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is **tested by fire,** may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ—” 1 Peter 1:6-7 WEBUS
- a) Your faith will be tested by trials!

(c) James on Trials

1. “**Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that **the testing of your faith** produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**” James 1:2-4 WEBUS

a) Your faith will be tested and victory will make you perfect and complete, lacking in nothing!

(d) Paul on Trials

1. “Not only this, **but we also rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that **suffering produces perseverance**; and perseverance, proven **character**; and proven character, **hope**; and **hope doesn't disappoint** us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5 WEBUS

a) The fruit of suffering...

1) Suffering + perseverance + character = hope!

2) Hope will never disappoint!

(2) The Commission

(a) Paraphrase John 17:18-23

1. “*Father, I pray that My disciples grasp this profound revelation and calling, and to embrace that it doesn't*

end with them. It is for every disciple who will ever come to faith in Me, because I now commission them to preach this message—as You sent Me into the world, I now send them into the world. My ultimate desire is that this truth would perfectly unify God’s people, as if they are one person, as We are indeed One Person.”

a) Commission: God sends you like God sends Him!

1) *“As **you sent me** into the world, even so **I have sent them** into the world.”* John 17:18 WEBUS

b) Message: Become One like Him!

1) *“There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, even as you also were called in **one hope** of your calling, **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father** of all, who is **over all** and **through all** and **in us all**. But to each one of us, the grace was **given according to the measure of the gift of Christ**.”* Ephesians 4:4-7 WEBUS

(3) The Assignment

(a) I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things even after my departure... by writing it down!

1. "I will **stand at my watch** and **set myself on the ramparts**, and **will look out to see** what he will say to me, and **what I will answer concerning my complaint**. Yahweh answered me, "**Write the vision**, and **make it plain** on tablets, that **he who runs may read it**. For **the vision** is yet for the **appointed time**, and **it hurries toward the end**, and **won't prove false**. Though **it takes time**, **wait for it**, because **it will surely come**. It **won't delay**." Habakkuk 2:1-3

WEBUS

- a) "I [YOUR NAME] will stand [**represent, become servant of, endure, persist, present oneself**] at my watch [**calling, purpose, office, charge, injunction**] and set [**station, dig in my heels, take one's stand**] myself [**on account of, on behalf of**] on the ramparts [**Siege-works**], and will look out to see [**observe and perceive the vision, give attention to, discern**] what he [**God**] will say to me, and what I will answer [**refresh, return, solution**] concerning my complaint [**reproof, correction, problem**]. Yahweh answered me, "Write [**literarily, and continually**] the vision [**revelation, divine communication**], and make it

plain [clear, distinct] on tablets [in writing], that he [the herald who cries out, proclaims, commissions, appoints, calls oneself] who runs may read it [participate]. For the vision [revelation] is yet for the appointed time [feast, sacred season, appointed place, time, meeting, sign], and it hurries [speaks, testifies, breathes, excites, inflames] toward the end, and won't prove false [disappoint]. Though it takes time [linger, tarry], wait for it, because it will surely come [come to pass, shed light, be attained, be introduced]. It won't delay [beyond the perfect time]." Habakkuk 2:1-3 WEBUS

- 1) *"Therefore I will not be negligent **to remind you** of these things, though you know them and are established in the present truth. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you...** I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things even after my departure."* 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

2. Swimming Analogy

a) God gives you the ability to swim, then you must swim (get in the water, use the strokes and kick). He also gives you the energy to swim (he empowers your movements), and if you sink or go off track, he keeps you afloat.

- 1) Write essay explaining how to access God's grace in order to practice your faith.
- 2) How will it help you make better choices?
- 3) Why must this be a conscious decision?

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Explain what it means that God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith.

- A. How is the Gospel both the *Power Source* of your born again experience and the *Power Source* of the way to live after that?
- B. How might this relate to what Paul calls obedience to the faith?

2. How is obedience or disobedience to the faith described by Y'shua in Matthew 7:21-27?

- A. How does James describe the same concepts in the first and second chapters of his letter?

3. James 1:16-17 speaks of every perfect gift...

- A. What is always the origin?
 - B. How does that relate to faith as per 2 Peter 1, Ephesians 2, and Romans 5?
 - C. In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter elaborates on the progression of faith, how so?
- 4. The gift of faith must, of course, precede the practice of faith. Use the following passages to describe the gift of faith.**
- A. 2 Peter 1:1; Ephesians 2:8; John 1:12-13; 3:3, 16; Romans 10:9, 13; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Mat. 16:15-18; 1 Cor. 1:28-31
- 5. 2 Peter 1:2 and 5 move us from the gift of faith to the practice of faith. What does grace have to do with it according to the following passages?**
- A. 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 5:1-2
- 6. How do the parables of the Talents; Sheep and Goats; and the Wheat and Tares distinguish between those with true faith and counterfeits?**
- A. Read Matthew 25:14-30
 - B. Read Matthew 25:31-46
 - C. Read Matthew 13:24-30
 - D. Use the following in your answer:
 - 1) True Servants/Sheep/Wheat
 - 2) Counterfeit Servants/Goats/Tares
- 7. Describe the Admonition, Commission, and Assignment:**

- A. The Admonition: 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; James 2:14-26;
Romans 5:3-5
- B. The Commission: John 17:18-23; Ephesians 4:4-7
- C. The Assignment: Habakkuk 2:1-3
 - 1) Write essay explaining how to access God's grace in order to practice your faith.
 - 2) How will it help you make better choices?
 - 3) Why must this be a conscious decision?