

## Reclaiming Faith Part 2: Believing Is Better

*"This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. **This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.** As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life.""* Romans 1:17 NLT

*"We have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are **under the power of sin.** As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous— not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." ...For **everyone** has sinned; **we all** fall short of God's glorious **standard.**"* Romans 3:9-12, 23 NLT

The Jews had placed their faith in **the Law** rather than **Christ**.

*"Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is **guilty before God.** For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. **The law simply shows us how sinful we are...** We are **made right with God** by placing our **faith in Jesus Christ.** And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."* Romans 3:19-20, 22 NLT

*"Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. **It is based on faith.** So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law... Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law."* Romans 3:27-31 NLT

*"Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. What does Scripture say? "Abraham **believed** God, and it was **credited** to him as **righteousness.**"*" Romans 4:1-3 NLT/NIV

✓ **Believed** – belief that becomes the moral conviction of your life.

✓ **Credited** – counting in your favor.

✓ **Righteousness** – the state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God.

*"When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. But **people are counted as righteous,** not because of their work, but **because of their faith** in God who forgives sinners."* Rom 4:4-5 NLT

*"Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a **right relationship with God** that comes by faith. If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless."* Romans 4:13-14 NLT

*"**Therefore,** since we have been **justified through faith,** we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this **grace in which we now stand.**"* Rom 5:1-2 NIV

- ✓ **Justified** – Just-if-I'd never sinned.
- ✓ **Peace with God** – I can look our Heavenly Father in the eyes.
- ✓ **Grace** – the ability to keep getting up.

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, **Christ died for the ungodly**. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, **Christ died for us**." Romans 5:6-8 NIV*

*"And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:16-17 NLT*

### **1. We all fall short on our own.**

*"When Adam sinned, **sin entered the world**. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, **for everyone sinned**." Romans 5:12 NLT*

### **2. We cannot work our way back into God's good graces.**

*"People are counted as righteous, **not because of their work**, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners." Romans 4:5 NLT*

### **3. We can only believe God to be credited as righteous.**

*"Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. And because of Abraham's faith, God **counted** him as righteous. And when God **counted** him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded **for our benefit, too**, assuring us that God will also **count** us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead." Romans 4:20-24 NLT*

### **4. We are saved by grace through faith.**

*"God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's **wonderful grace** became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's **wonderful grace** rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21 NLT*

Believe God because **believing is better**.