

# Light Brings Salt

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## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*



### The Challenge of Living by Faith Pastor John Griffith

The Scripture emphatically declares: "For the righteous man shall live by faith" Hab 2:4

This is quoted 3 times in N.T. and each with a different emphasis of the phrase. First in Rom. 1:17, where the emphasis is on +R, perfect righteousness. The one who has imputed +R is to live by faith

Next in Gal. 3:11, where the emphasis in the context is on the life, f2, how one lives as a believer. The point is the one who is +R is to live or walk by faith.

The last one is in Heb 10:38, in this context it is the faith itself that is the focus. Other passages make the point that faith in the right object is crucial for the believer's life. "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him" (Heb. 11:6), and "We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:8).

It is **crucial** that we not underestimate the importance of faith in our life as believers, so much so that it is almost impossible to over emphasize its importance. Some might respond that works are just as important and then quote James 2:15f.

But the emphasis of Scripture is that bonifide works, that is, divine good production must be the product **of faith** in the person and plan of God which sets God free to work in the mind and life of the individual. It is faith in the Word brings the power of God into the life of the believer.

We became the children of God and are justified by faith, [Rom. 5:1] that's our

entrance into the plan and purpose of God, Salvation, and now as believers in union with Christ, we are to live and experience our new life in Christ, by faith. The object of faith is crucial.

The Christian life from start to finish is of necessity a life of faith, a life of dependence on God and His grace provision for us in Christ. It is a supernatural life to be accomplished by God through the agency of the Holy Spirit who, as a gift from God, indwells every believer from the moment of salvation.

As God's gift, the indwelling Spirit accomplishes a variety of ministries each of which are vital to the believer's spiritual life. We can no more live the Christian life by **self effort** than we can manufacture a resurrected body by our own effort. [that's the point of Rom. 7]

The Apostle Paul rebuked the believers at Galatia for their failure to recognize this very important principle. They began by faith in Christ, but because of the pressure of some legalists, they were influenced to shift to the realm of human achievement through religious works to live the Christian life, an attempt to be perfected or sanctified by their own efforts.

In fact, Paul viewed their failure to understand this as the result of being "bewitched," **cunningly deceived**. This goes to the ultimate motivation behind the false teachers and Satan's deception. (Galatians 3:1-5)

Faith in the power, plan and provision of God is absolutely necessary if we're to attain the goals/objectives that God desires

for us in our life. We must never forget that we still have resident, the sin nature, an inherent weakness, which is able to make us susceptible to the blindness and deceptive nature of the world in which we live, which don't forget, is under the domination of Satan and his forces.

So important is it that we understand the grace provisions available to us as believers who are in Christ. We have everything available to us to walk by faith, to walk by the Spirit. In fact as we "grow in grace" and utilize grace in our life not only is it liberating for us but it also fulfills our purpose for being here!

That is so that we can bring glory to God, honor Him in our life. Which is the main objective for His leaving us here after salvation.

Must recognize that because of the presence of the sin nature if we choose to put it into rulership we open ourselves up and become susceptible to various external deceptions which will ultimately impact our spiritual life. We must be cognizant of our lust patterns and areas of weakness and the reality that human good is produced by the area of strength of our sin nature when it rules instead of being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Need to remember that the sin nature always rules the Un-Believer therefore spiritually dead. (Eph. 2:1-3; Romans 6:19; whose ruling your life? To whom are you slaves?; Romans 8:3-4 - Grace succeeds where the law fails; Grace motivates and provides what's necessary for holy living; while any type of law performance living is unable to do so; Matthew 26:41 )

One of the ways that Satan uses to impact the thinking and objectives of believers is what Scripture refers to as the world, *κοσμος* which is associated with darkness, blindness, to point out the deceptiveness of falling for its philosophies.

1. John 12:46 (status of the world = darkness)

2. John 14:17 (since the world is in darkness, spiritually blind, without the H/S and His ministry)
3. 1 Corinthians 1:20 (answers are empty of real substance, but are seductive to the UB and the Believer under the sin nature's rule)
4. Ephesians 2:2; 4:17-20
5. Col. 1:13

There is an ongoing battle with Satanic powers as we noted in the Angelic Conflict study but we have a total provision for that battle: Ephesians 6:10-18. Because we are totally inadequate in and of ourselves, it is vital that we learn to walk by faith with every step in life. That is in every situation answering the question Will you Trust me positively. God alone is adequate; His provision applied makes us adequate. (2 Cor. 3:4-5)

As we have received Christ by faith in the message of the gospel (God's witness concerning His Son or justification through faith) in the same way, that is by faith, we are to walk step by step through life by faith, the object being the Word of God, the principles and truths that form the framework of God's will for us. The parameters laid out by God that are in our best interests.

The Word then must be the focus in life. (Gal. 2:20; 3:1-5; 3:11; 2 Cor. 5:7).

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#### Notable Quotes

"In Congress, Democrats have decided to chip away at the war with various symbolic postures but not to oppose it outright: That way, if things go well, they can muscle in on the credit, but if things go badly, they'll be able to say they told you so without getting stuck with the blame." —Mark Steyn

"Our political elite and chattering classes deserve a stiff rebuke for ignoring—and encouraging the public to ignore—the truth: In a global war for the Free World, there is nowhere to run." —Frank Gaffney