

Faith Performs God's Requirements

"The just shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17; Habakkuk 2:4). Faith is an essential component to cultivating and to maintaining fellowship with God. Without faith no one can be pleasing to God (cf. Hebrews 11:6). Faith affects the character of the believer, and faith affects the daily life he lives. A man is not just without a right faith. A man is not just without properly living by a proper faith.

The righteousness and justice of God is revealed in the gospel of Christ – the one true gospel, which is *"the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"* (Romans 1:16, 17). Without divine revelation man cannot know the mind and the will of God. God has spoken to man through His Son Jesus (cf. Hebrews 1:2). Therefore, we can now know the will of our Creator because the Holy Spirit revealed the wisdom of God to the apostles and prophets of Christ (cf. I Corinthians 2:12-13; Ephesians 3:5-6). The revelation of the gospel of Christ is the revealed faith, the once-for-all delivered faith – which reveals the teachings and righteousness of God in Christ (cf. Galatians 3:23; Jude 3).

Reliance and trust in the heavenly Father and the Son are more than just a firm persuasion that God is. Faith diligently seeks God, His kingdom and His righteousness (cf. Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 6:33). Seeking involves effort and work on the part of the person doing the search. Personal faith is an active pursuit, which must look into the gospel of Christ because therein God, righteousness, salvation and the kingdom are revealed. Examination of *"the perfect law of liberty"* moves the true believer to be a doer of the work, not a hearer only (James 1:22, 25).

"If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." (I John 2:29) Faith practices God's righteousness; faith performs God's requirements. Peter once responded to the Lord, *"Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."* (Luke 5:5) A believer who lives by faith does what the Lord says because he knows that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He lives according to the teaching of Christ (cf. John 8:31). Men of faith will preach and practice what the apostles preached and practiced. For example, *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38) Faith does what the Lord has revealed in the way He says to do it and for the purpose He states.