

Justification by Faith

A Study on Romans 5:1

What is justification? What is justification by faith? Is there a difference?

There are several Hebrew and Greek words that define justification. I've listed some of them below.

Just, lawful, righteous, clean, cleared, innocent, acquitted, judgment, holy.

Justification is a free gift:

Because Adam sinned, we being his descendants are shapen in iniquity.

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Romans 5:16 And not as it was by one [Adam] that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification [G1345 righteousness, judgment].

God being gracious, provided a propitiation, a merciful way to forgive us of our past sins, rendering us as innocent through faith in Christ's love as manifested in His death. When we decide to follow Him and exercise our faith in Him, we stand before the Father as though we never sinned.

Romans 3:24 Being justified [G1344 freed, to rendered as innocent] freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

We will discover that not only is God gracious to render us innocent of past sins, He is also able to cleanse us from all sin well knowing that "He is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless" (Jude 24).

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just [equitable] to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 4:20 He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21) And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. 22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

How do we know that Abraham believed God? Because his belief was followed by action, he obeyed.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Abraham was counted righteous by faith, and faith without works does not exist.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

If we exercise faith in our belief that what He has promised, He is able also to perform it, He will finish the work He has begun in you. Not only does He forgive you and impute righteousness to you, He will impart righteousness to you as you grow from faith to faith.

Titus 3:7 That being justified [G134] freed, to rendered as innocent] by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

There is not a just, righteous man, all have sinned:

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just [H6662 lawful, righteous] man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Isaiah 49:24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful [H6662 righteous] captive delivered?

How can a man be just before God?

Job 4:17 Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?

Job 9:2 I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just [H6663 clear] with God?

Job 25:4 How then can man be justified [H666 cleared] with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Christ will justify many:

Christ was satisfied to bear our iniquities so that He could justify many, not all, because that gracious provision He has made would not be accepted by all.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify [H6663 clear] many; for He shall bear their iniquities.

Christ righteousness made it possible for our justification:

Romans 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Christ] the free gift came upon all men unto justification [G1347 aquittal (for Christ's sake)] of life.

It is "for the joy that was set before Him," that He "endured the cross" that He might "justify many."

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If Christ had sinned just once, He could not have been the "Lamb without spot or blemish" and could not have been our substitute, making a provision for us to be justified. He had to be righteous, in order to be our justifier and render us innocent.

Romans 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] of him which believeth in Jesus.

We are justified by His blood:

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified [G1344 freed, to rendered as innocent] by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Christ was raised for our justification:

Not only was His death for our justification, that is, our acquittal, but so also was His resurrection. His resurrection proved His righteousness, that the grave could not keep Him.

Romans 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification [G1347 acquittal (for Christ's sake)].

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

We shall be saved from wrath by His life:

We are justified by His death, but that is not all that is necessary to “be saved from wrath through Him.” Wrath is the result of sin, therefore He must also save us from committing sin. There are two requirements of salvation, justification and sanctification, respectively forgiveness and cleansing from sin.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified [G1344 freed, to rendered as innocent] by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

The justification of the law might be fulfilled in us:

Not only was His death and resurrection necessary to justify us, to remit our past sins, but so that the “righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.”

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4) That the righteousness [justification G1345] of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2Corinthians 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Justification is granted Gentiles who keep the justification of the law:

Romans 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness [justification G1345] of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision.

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11) For there is no respect of persons with God. ... 13) (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.)

Both Jew and Gentile are justified by faith:

It is not “by works of righteousness,” that we are justified, but by faith in the power of God “to keep us from falling” that we are justified.

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God, which shall justify [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Galatians 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] the heathen [Gentile] through faith, preached before the gospel unto

Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Noah was righteous, just before God:

God has made provision for all to be justified by grace, from Adam and Eve onward. As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. Noah had an experience in imparted righteousness.

Genesis 7:1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous [H6662 just, lawful] before me in this generation.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

One must die to sin to be justified:

We must fully desire to “mortify the deeds of the body” and be “born again,” we must become a “new creature” “in Christ Jesus,” to be justified by faith. Christ’s provision for imputed righteousness must be appropriated by us through faith and thus His righteousness is imparted to us from faith to faith, in other words, we must receive that justification by faith in order for His righteousness to be imputed and imparted to us.

Romans 6:7 For he that is dead is freed [G1344 justified, freed, to render as innocent] from sin. ... 11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Just as Christ “reckoned” Himself to be able to finish His work in us, we too must “reckon” Him able by reckoning ourselves dead to sin.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11) But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Justified is to be clean and righteous:

Job 15:14 What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous [justified H6663]?

1Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Clean, white linen is the justification of the saints:

Revelation 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness [G1345 justification] of saints.

The just shall live by faith:

As our faith in the grace of God to forgive us of all our past sins, grows from faith to faith, righteousness will not only be imputed to us, that is, “put to our account,” but righteousness will be imparted, that is, it will “become part of us” and we will live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just [H6662 lawful, righteous] shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just [G1342 innocent, holy, righteous] shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just [G1342 innocent, holy, righteous] shall live by faith.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just [G1342 innocent, holy, righteous] shall live by faith: but if any man draw back [to shrink, withdraw], my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

We have peace being justified by faith:

We can rest in Christ's redeeming love in His willingness to not only forgive our sins, but have faith in His ability to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9).

Therefore being justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

A just, lawful, righteous man falls, but gets back up:

By beholding Christ, we will become more like Him and fall less and less, from glory to glory. If we fall, we have a living Saviour and advocate who will help us rise up again, confess our sin and believe that He will finish the work He has begun.

Proverbs 24:16 For a just [H6662 lawful, righteous] man falleth seven [an indefinite number] times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

God will justify the righteous:

1Kings 8:32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying [H6663 clearing] the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

2Chronicles 6:23 Then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, by requiting the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own head; and by justifying [H6663 clearing] the righteous, by giving him according to his righteousness.

Romans 5:16 And not as it was by one [Adam] that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification [G1345 righteousness, judgment].

The just receive eternal life:

Matthew 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just [G1342 innocent, holy, righteous],

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous [G1342 innocent, holy], into life eternal.

The just shall inherit the land for ever:

Isaiah 60:21 Thy people also shall be all righteous [H6662 just, lawful]: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

Only the doers of the law are justified:

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just [G1342 innocent, holy, righteous] before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified [G1344 to render (i.e. show or regard as) just or innocent].

God will not justify, clear the wicked:

Exodus 23:7 Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify [H6663 clear] the wicked.

Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32) Who knowing the judgment [G1345 righteousness, justification] of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

You're either justified or condemned by your words:

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent], and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

You can't be justified by the law of Moses:

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

You can't be justified by "the deeds of the law:"

The law has its place in the plan of salvation, and that is to reveal to us our sin and our need for Christ.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by faith without the deeds of the law.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent]. 17) But if, while we seek to be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Is Christ responsible for our sinning if we don't have a sincere faith that produces works of righteousness by love? Those who don't possess contrition of heart, have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof.

Galatians 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

2Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Why do we need power. Is it in order to believe that Christ died that we may live, or is it power to obey the gospel?

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

1Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

If it were possible for man to keep the law, Christ would not have had to die, we would have no need of grace.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

How was Abraham justified, by faith or works?

Abraham was justified by grace through faith that works by love. Not by meritorious works, but by faith that produces works of righteousness.

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

James 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent], and not by faith only. 25) Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

The law was given to bring us to Christ who could justify us:

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] by faith.

Christ in you, the hope of glory is the only way righteousness can be fulfilled in us.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Eternal consequences to the just and the unjust:

Romans 5:16 And not as it was by one [Adam] that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification [G1345 righteousness, judgment].

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous [G1344 freed, to render as innocent] still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

God will be justified, He will be seen to be “just and the justifier:”

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26) To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified [G1344 freed] in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Psalms 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2) Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3) For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4) Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified [H8663 clear] when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments [G1345 righteousness, justification] are made manifest.

God's judgments will be seen as just:

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?)5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6) Who will render to every man according to his deeds: ... 8) But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9) Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment [G1345 justification] of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7) To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ... 10b) ... glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Summary:

Many misunderstand the gospel, and we can find many variations. There definitely was a finished work at the cross, an atonement for the whole world without which no one could be saved. But that was a provision for all to accept and believe that through the gospel of grace we can be forgiven and cleansed of all unrighteousness. It was and is Satan's subtle deceptions that we can just be forgiven and that we don't have to be cleansed from sin, that sin will not lead to death and that we can be saved in our sin. God forbid that we should reproduce sin in the new kingdom. We must remember he was a liar and a murderer from the beginning and there is no truth in him.

Christ came to free us from the penalty of sin. But He also came to free us from the power of sin, and He promises to free us from the presence of sin. Christ came to reveal the love of God for us, the malignant nature of sin, and the immutability and place of the law in the plan of salvation.

Through the gracious forbearance of God, who well knowing that, "what He had promised, He was able also to perform," calling "those things which be not as though they were." Thus He imputed righteousness to Abraham confident that Abraham would continue to grow from faith to faith and righteousness would be imparted to him.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation [a merciful provision] through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before Him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ... 21) And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. 22) And therefore it was imputed to him [Abraham] for righteousness.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

Galatians 1:4 Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. ... 9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

1Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: 22) Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Hebrew 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

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