



Decade of Availability Living by Faith

In this passage Paul talks about 'saving faith' and 'living by faith.' If we understand both 'saving' and 'living' faith—we will never be ashamed of the truth of God's Word.

A. Faith Check 1: My Faith vv. 8-11

1. Faithful testimony: v. 1 As Paul traveled in his missionary journeys he kept hearing about the 'faith' of the Romans. Paul also heard about their obedience:

"For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf..." Rom 16:19

→ **Obedience always follows true faith!**

2. Praying for others: vv. 9-10 Paul was a man of prayer. He served the gospel with a heart (spirit) of passion—his heart was in it. That service included prayer.

3. Establishing others: v. 11 Paul's desire was to minister the gifts of the Spirit to the Romans that they would be established in ministry. (See Romans 12; I Cor 14:35; 26-33)

B. Faith Check 2: Our Faith vv. 12-15

1. Comforted together: v. 12 The operation of the gifts of the Spirit is by FAITH and a comfort to each in the local church. The Holy Spirit is the 'divine comforter.'

2. Producing fruit: v. 13 Besides ministering the gifts of the Spirit—Paul's purpose in going to Rome was to help the Romans produce fruit of the Gospel.

3. The Gospel: Paul's debt is to 'preach the Gospel' even to the believers at Rome. (See Rom. 16:25)

C. Faith Check 3: Saving Faith vv. 16-17

These two verses are Paul's theme statement for the book of Romans. It is the basis for the rest of the book.

1. Not ashamed: v. 16a; (2 Tim. 1:12-13 side bar) We are constantly tempted to be ashamed...to hold back telling others the full truth of the Biblical message. Jesus warned us against this in Mark 8:38 (see side bar) and Paul in 2 Tim 1:8 "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."

2. Gospel power: v. 16b Paul is NOT ashamed of the Gospel because it has power to do something. It can save those who believe it.

Belief (faith) is conditional for salvation, "...to every one that believeth." The present tense of the verb implies ongoing action. Salvation is given to all who believe and keep on believing. (See also John 3:16)

3. Faith to faith: v. 17 The Gospel is God's power unto salvation because the gospel reveals a 'righteousness' [right standing] that is by faith from first to last.

Right living: Paul explains that the just/righteous [those with right standing] must live [right living] by faith. Faith to faith...growing faith by living faith.

Living by Faith Gal. 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Romans 1:8-17 (KJV)

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. **9** For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; **10** Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. **11** For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established;

12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. **13** Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. **15** So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

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.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Hab. 2:4)

Mark 8:38 (KJV)

38 Whosoever therefore shall be **ashamed** of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be **ashamed**, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

2 Timothy 1:12-13 (KJV)

12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not **ashamed**: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.