

DAY 3: THE LAW VERSUS FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS

Key Texts: Galatians 2:15-16, Genesis 15:6

Introduction: The struggle between law and faith has been central to God's relationship with humanity. For centuries, the Israelites followed the law, believing it was the key to righteousness. But when Christ came, He fulfilled the law and established a new way to God through faith. Paul's message to the Galatians remains clear: salvation cannot be earned through the law, but is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. This truth is crucial, even today, as many try to earn God's favor through their deeds, rather than resting in His grace.

1. Faith: The Foundation of Righteousness

- **Abraham's Example:**

Abraham was declared righteous, not by his works, but by his faith in God's promises (Genesis 15:6). Faith, not the law, is the foundation of a relationship with God.

- Abraham's righteousness was based on belief, not actions. This shows us that righteousness is not something we can earn, but something God gives when we trust Him.

- **Living by Faith:**

Faith requires trusting God, even when circumstances seem impossible. Whether facing financial struggles or health crises, we are called to trust in God's promises. Faith believes that, even in uncertainty, God will fulfill His word.



Abraham's faith was counted as righteousness, a powerful example of trusting God's promises, even when circumstances seem impossible.

2. The Law vs. Faith in Christ Jesus

- The **law** consists of binding decrees given by God, which include:
 - **Ceremonial laws** (Leviticus 1:1-11),
 - **Civil laws** (Deuteronomy 24:1-22),
 - **Moral laws** (Exodus 20:1-17, Mark 12:29-32).

While these laws were necessary to guide the people of Israel, they were never meant to justify anyone. **Faith** in Christ, however, is the only way to be justified and made righteous. The law exposes sin but cannot save—it merely points to our need for grace (Galatians 2:15-16).

- **The Judaizers' Error:**

The Judaizers, who insisted Gentile Christians adhere to Jewish laws like circumcision, missed the point. True salvation comes through faith, not through rituals or race. We are all equal in God's eyes, and faith in Christ is the only path to salvation (Galatians 3:27-29).

3. Is Circumcision Necessary?

- **Old Testament Significance:**

Circumcision was a physical sign of the covenant between God and Israel (Genesis 17:9-13, Romans 4:11). It symbolized obedience and purification. But as time passed, God called for a **spiritual circumcision** of the heart (Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4). God desires a transformed heart, not mere ritual observance.

- **Circumcision of the Heart:**

True circumcision is not of the flesh but of the heart (Romans 2:28-29). God values a **changed heart** more than outward appearances or rituals. Abraham was blessed before he was circumcised (Romans 4:9-10), showing that God's promises come through faith, not outward actions.

4. The Abrahamic Promise and Faith

- **God's Call to Abraham:**

In Genesis 12:1-4, God called Abraham to leave his homeland and trust in His promises. Abraham followed in faith, and through him, God made profound promises:

- **Blessing and greatness** (Genesis 12:2),
- **A blessing to others**—those who bless Abraham will be blessed, and those who curse him will be cursed (Genesis 12:3),
- **A blessing to all nations**—through Abraham, all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3c),
- **Protection and reward** (Genesis 15:1).

- **Faith Leads to Blessings:**

Abraham's faith opened the door to God's promises. Similarly, we are blessed by faith, not by works of the law. The power to live a transformed life and receive the Holy Spirit comes from faith in Christ, not from fulfilling religious rituals (Galatians 3:5).

Conclusion:

The law points out our sin, but it is **faith in Jesus Christ** that justifies us and leads to salvation. Just as Abraham was declared righteous by faith, we too are called to trust in God's promises. Circumcision, rituals, and outward observance are not what save us—what matters is a transformed heart, living by faith in Christ Jesus. This faith, rooted in the promises of God, leads us to true righteousness and freedom in Christ. Let us rest in His grace and trust in His faithful promises.