

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

FROM FAITH INTO FAITH

Romans 1:17 “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

“Sola Fide” (solely by faith) is one of the key teachings Martin Luther drew out of the Holy Scriptures. Whereas theologians and pastors have improperly taught that salvation is a combination of God’s grace and personal works, which was prevalent in the church at the time of Luther, the Holy Spirit led him to Titus 3:4-7, “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

From the faithfulness of God in pouring out His grace upon us we see that it is not our works that save us but the source of our salvation is God. By the faith the Holy Spirit has given you, you live. Your faith in Jesus receives the righteousness He has earned and won for you. This is how you are righteous in God’s sight.

From God’s faithfulness to His promise of salvation you, by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Means of Grace respond in faith to accept the saving work of Jesus. God’s faithfulness is assured you in the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 7:9, “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments” AND in the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” The forgiveness of your sins is dependent upon God’s faithfulness as you can see from 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” The Psalmist writes, “Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.”

Prayer: Thank You heavenly Father for Your faithfulness in unconditionally loving me through Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen

O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom noting is, All perfect gifts bestowing;
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.

Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.

Keep me from saying words That later need recalling;
Guard me lest Idle speech May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.

Lord, let me with my foes With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;
And let my body have A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

And on that final day When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand, My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice, Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name.
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