



Foundations

Hebrews 6
'Faith'

FAITH – THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

Texts: Habakkuk 2:1-5, Romans 1:16-17, Galatians 3:7-14, Hebrews 10:35-39

The phrase 'the righteous shall live by faith,' originates in Habakkuk 2, and is quoted in three different passages in the NT. When Paul quotes it in Galatians and Romans, he simply quotes the phrase, not the whole verse or the wider context: so we can be confident that the phrase 'the righteous shall live by faith' is a maxim – a statement that is intrinsically true regardless of the context.

The NT writers often quote the OT from a Greek translation called the Septuagint – which explains why OT quotations in the NT often look quite different when we look up the OT scripture in our bibles. We find this in the Hebrews reference where 'My Righteous One' is taken as a messianic reference to Jesus, and it the coming of the Messiah that will not be delayed rather than coming of the prophetic word.

Let's look at the three NT uses of this phrase in a little more detail to see what it means for us, the righteous, to live by faith.

From Faith to Faith – Romans 1:16-17

The Gospel brings us into a life which is built on the foundation of The Faith, i.e. the essential truth about Jesus Christ: this is how Jude talks about The Faith in Jude 1:3.

If we build on that foundation we go on living by faith, "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). This life of faith is living continually in response to the revelation of God that the Gospel brings. The life of active faith is the only righteous way to live. The Good News Bible puts it this way:

For the gospel reveals how God puts people right with himself: **it is through faith from beginning to end.** As the scripture says, "The person who is put right with God through faith shall live." (Rom 1:17 GNB)

- So how does the Good News of Jesus Christ continually lead us to living by faith?

The Blessing of Faith – Galatians 3:7-14

Abraham is our great example of what it means to live by faith. 'We walk by faith not by sight' (2Cor 5:7), just like Abraham who 'went out not knowing where he was going,' but was 'looking for the city whose designer and builder is God,' (Heb 11:8-10).

Those who live by faith share in Abraham's blessing. Living by faith means we don't live by the Law but through Christ's death we live by the Spirit: and this is what sets us apart from the world and is what makes us witnesses of Christ.

- So what is Abraham's blessing, and how do we share in it?

The Endurance of Faith – Hebrews 10:35-39

Hebrews 10:22 encourages us to draw near to God with 'the full assurance of faith,' and then in 10:35 we are warned 'do not throw away your confidence' when we face struggles and sufferings. Looking forward to the coming of the Lord is what cultivates the endurance of faith. Endurance, or persistence, is what empowers us to do the will of God and receive what he has promised.

- So what is the 'great reward' (Heb 10:35) we are looking forward to at Jesus's return?