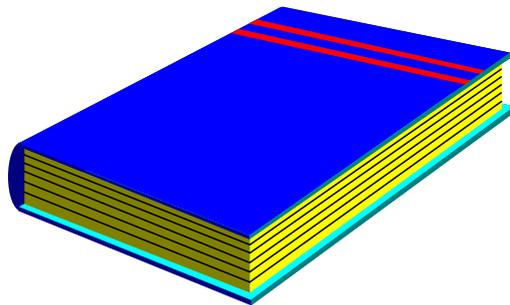


# THE WORD

## BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



## FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

### PART FIVE

#### LAW AND GRACE

Of His fullness we have all received, and Grace for Grace. For the Law was given through Moses, but Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:16-17)

But now the righteousness of God apart from the Law has been revealed which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. (Romans 3:21-22)

## The object of this study is

### **TO DISCOVER AND PROVE:-**

That our salvation is not dependant on what we do but is freely given to us because of what God has already done through Jesus Christ.

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On completion of this study you will have:-

- Discovered the difference between Faith and Works
  - Learned the relationship between the Law and the Believer.
  - Understood the benefits of Grace
  - Been encouraged in your certainty of your salvation
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### **NOTES**

There are four practical aspects to these courses; exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

1. **Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
2. **Bible reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
3. **Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
4. **Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers can be sent back to your Course Administrator or e-mailed or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to [stangain@btinternet.com](mailto:stangain@btinternet.com) for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

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## **Faith and Works**

To help us to understand the difference between Law and Grace it is helpful to understand the relationship between faith and works. Many Christians still believe that our salvation is dependent upon what we do, which can bring bondage. Many Christians believe that our religious practices and church attendance give us salvation.

To help us on our way the following definitions will help. **Learn** this definition:-

**Faith is that which we believe - Works are that which we do**

The relationship between faith and works as taught in the New Testament can be expressed in this way - faith is not based on works but works are the outcome of faith. What we believe is not based on what we do but what we do is the result of what we believe.

## **Faith is not Based on Works**

The whole of the New Testament underlines this truth. Remember the last words of Jesus on the cross “**It is finished**” (John 19:30). The work that Jesus came to this world to do for our salvation was finished. Once for all. Salvation was available for all who believed in Him. There is no need to do anything more for our salvation Nothing can be added to it. It is total and complete.

**Exercise 1.** Read and study closely the following passages (these passages will be referred to again in this and other studies):-

Ephesians 2:1-10 - 1 John 3:8 - Hebrews 2:14

- Write in your own words what you understand these passages to mean when read together. What are the works of the devil that Jesus came to destroy?

Any attempt by any man or church or creed to add to His work is an insult to God the Father and God the Son. It suggests that the work of salvation is not adequate or complete. This is against the teaching of the New Testament.

The Apostle Paul continually states that Christ’s work cannot be added to. In Romans 4:4-5 we read:-

“Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as Grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness”

In order to obtain the righteousness that comes by faith we must first stop working! Stop trying to do whatever we have been doing to try and please God so that we

might be declared righteous. Anything added to what he has done is not of faith and we are told in Romans 14:23 that “Anything that is not from faith is sin”!

**Read and Study** Romans Chapters 9 - 11. These chapters use Israel as an example of the difference between faith and works. Israel, by attempting to keep the Law by works have not found righteousness. The Gentiles that believe have found righteousness not by works but by faith. Romans 9:30-32 sums it up well.

Paul gives two very important reasons why the Israelites did not find the salvation that God had prepared for them in the coming of their long awaited Messiah:-

1. Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works
2. They tried to establish their own righteousness

Even in the Old Testament we read of those who were justified by faith apart from the Law.

**Read** Genesis chapter 15. Abraham, we are told, believed God and this belief was credited to him as righteousness. It was not leaving his own land; it was not his sacrifice of Isaac; it was not circumcision - it was believing God that counted as righteousness.

Things have not changed today. In churches around the world people are trying to establish their own righteousness by adding to what Jesus has done. Fasting, penance, prayer, charity, observance of church rules etc. All have value for the Christian in themselves but they do not bring salvation. Jesus did this on the cross. “It is finished!”

**Learn** the following two passages:-

“For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”  
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

“Not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He has saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5)

### **Living Faith and not Dead Works**

If salvation is not by works but only by faith, then what part do works play in the life of the Christian?

**Study** James 2:14-26. We will look closely at this passage but the final verse 26 sums up the whole passage:-

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”

Many people believe that this passage opposes what we have seen Paul write above. However, we shall see that it confirms what Paul writes.

In the natural world, all the time that the spirit of man is in him he is alive. Because of that spirit he is able to live and breath and work and do all that he does. We know that the spirit of that man is in him because of what he does. When his spirit leaves him, he dies. He no longer does anything. It is this lack of action that tells us that his life is not in his body.

In the same way, the Spirit of Faith shows us that faith is alive in the body. It comes from God and brings the life of Jesus to dwell within us. We know that the Spirit of Faith is in the man because of what he does. The things that he does reflect the life of the Spirit that is in him. It shows in his thoughts and words and actions.

He begins to think differently, to speak differently. He does things that he would not do before the Spirit of Faith lived in him. These works or actions are evidence that the life of the Spirit is dwelling in him. If none of this evidence is there - none of the works that are consistent with the profession of faith - then it shows that there is no real faith living in him.

Without these works, the profession of Christianity is as dead as the body of a man after his spirit has left him.

James in the passage we are studying gives four examples of believing. Each example is of a different reaction to that belief:-

1. James speaks of a Christian who sees his brother in need and does nothing to help him in his need, the man is not sincere. Since he does not match his words with action, his words are empty with no inward reality. This is a Christian who professes faith but does not act in accordance with his words. Such faith is indeed worthless and dead.
2. Next is the mention of demons who believe in the one true God, but tremble with fear. They know of the existence of God but are in rebellion to Him and under sentence of judgment and death. Their knowledge or belief brings no comfort. True biblical faith is always expressed in submission and obedience to God. Faith that is stubborn and disobedient to God is dead faith and cannot save from God's judgment.
3. Abraham is the third example. Abraham believed God and put his faith into action and it was credited to him as righteousness. His life was a continuous walking and growing in obedience to God even to the point of the sacrifice of his own son, Isaac. This faith is living and expresses itself outwardly by works in a life of obedience and submission to God.
4. The prostitute Rahab was a sinful woman who lived in a city that was about to be destroyed (Joshua chapter 2). She believed that the God of Israel was powerful enough and merciful enough to save her and her

family. The faith that was in her heart was transferred into action and brought salvation to herself and her family. This is a living faith that expressed itself in action and an open confession of the power of God.

**Exercise 2.** A) From your own experience write out examples of people that are known to you who:-

- believe in God but do not live in obedience to Him and his word - whose faith is dead
- believe in God and show their faith by how they live

B) From your knowledge of the bible write out examples of people who are recorded who:-

- knew the voice of God but disobeyed
- who heard the voice of God and were obedient

### **Work Out Our Own Salvation**

Faith is an active thing. James agrees with Paul that faith will be seen by our works. Paul expresses it this way in a passage that you should **Learn:-**

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Phil 2:12-12)

Here it is clear. First it is God that works in us to will and to act. Following this, we then by our lives and our actions work out what God has already worked in us.

**Faith comes first, then works. Our works test whether our faith is real**

(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINSTRATOR) **Are there any areas in your life where you are doing things outwardly because you think that these will give you salvation. Are there things that you should be doing as a leader but you are resisting God? What will you do about these things?**

### **The Law and the Believer**

Having understood the relationship between faith and works we can now move on to look at a similar relationship between Law and Grace.

We have seen that any attempt to work to earn our salvation is living under Law and denies the Grace of God that is freely given to us in Jesus Christ. The Law is not abolished. The Law is God-given and it is intended that it should show people how sinful they are and hence their need of salvation (**Read** Romans chapter 7). Once a man is saved, and he can only be saved through Jesus Christ, the Law has no further effect on the life of the believer. Jesus did not abolish the Law but came to fulfil the Law. (Matthew 5:17-20).

What is meant by fulfilling the Law? Simply this: that Jesus, by living a perfect life in the flesh, has met the full demands of the Law. Only His sacrifice is sufficient to pay the price of the sin of the flesh of all men, because only He is without sin.

By laying down His life He has satisfied the Law and therefore the Law is completed in Him. This is the most glorious work of His work on the cross. He fulfilled the righteousness of the Law by keeping all the Law. The Law still stands but it plays no part in the life of the believer - to those that are IN HIM. Our righteousness is His righteousness and not of ourselves.

## **Learn:-**

“For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” (Romans 10:4)

**Exercise 3.** Study closely the illustration about marriage that Paul writes about in Romans 7 verses 1-6. Explain in your own words how the death of Christ has freed those that believe in Him from the effects of the Law.

### **The Benefits of Grace**

The best expression that I can find in the New Testament that gives the best explanation of the benefits of Grace is found in very many places. It is a very simple expression - “IN HIM”

Grace takes me away from the requirements of the Law and puts me in the only place where the Law has been fulfilled - “IN HIM”. Now that I am in Him, I keep the Law!

“IN HIM” I receive all the benefits of being a son of God that Jesus himself receives. “IN HIM” I am an adopted son and a co-heir with Jesus to all the fullness of Heaven. (Romans. 8:15-17). All these benefits are no longer by works but are freely given. How could I attain to even one of them by my own efforts?

**Exercise 4.** Below are listed many of the “Benefits of Grace” or benefits of being “IN HIM”. It is not a complete list - as you understand this principle more you will find many more as you read the Bible. For at least the next seven days meditate on this list and learn each day three of these scriptures. As you meditate pray that the Holy Spirit will bring light and life to you through these scriptures.

- IN HIM we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)
- THROUGH HIM we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:11)
- There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are IN CHRIST JESUS. (Romans 8:1)

- We are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM who loved us. (Rom 8:37)
- You were enriched in everything BY HIM in all utterance and knowledge.  
(1 Corinthians 1:5)
- If anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- We might become the righteousness of God IN HIM. (2 Cor. 5:21)
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places IN CHRIST.  
(Ephesians 1:3)
- He chose us IN HIM before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Ephesians 1:4)
- Having predestined us to adoption as sons BY JESUS CHRIST to Himself.  
(Ephesians 1:5)
- He has bestowed Grace upon us IN THE BELOVED. (Ephesians 1:6)
- IN HIM we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.  
(Ephesians 1:7)
- IN HIM, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.  
(Ephesians 1:13)
- God raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS. (Ephesians 2:6)
- We are His workmanship, created IN CHRIST JESUS for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)
- IN HIM we have boldness and access with confidence through faith IN HIM (Ephesians 3:12)
- Filled with the fruits of righteousness which are BY CHRIST JESUS.  
(Philippians 1:11)
- The upward call of God IN CHRIST JESUS. (Philippians 3:14)
- We may present every man perfect IN CHRIST JESUS. (Colossians 1:28)
- You are complete IN HIM. (Colossians 2:10)
- IN HIM you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands (Colossians 2:11)

The list in the above exercise is not complete but it brings together many of the wonderful things that are ours by faith in the finished work of Christ. It is not because of anything that we ourselves have done, as we have already seen. We can do nothing that will be of merit towards our eternal salvation. There are rewards for the things that we do but these things do not contribute to our salvation. Many people say that these things are not possible. They look at their lives and say this cannot be true. They feel that their life does not match up to such high standards. I am not perfect! I am not holy and blameless! They need to understand this one thing:-

### **THESE THINGS ARE OURS BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS**

It is not because God cannot see the things that we do and say, but because Jesus has taken away the penalty for ALL our wrong doing so that we can stand justified (free from sin) before God. We have not made ourselves to be these things - it is impossible for us. It has pleased God to credit fully to us those things that are fully credited to Jesus. Hallelujah!

“Now if we are children (of God the Father) then we are heirs -heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together,” (Romans 8:17)

### **In Adam or in Christ?**

How can we be sure that we can do nothing for ourselves of any eternal value outside of Christ? We have previously studied from Romans 5 but let us look again at the following verses from that chapter.

**Read** again Romans chapters 3-5.

“Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -For until the Law, sin was in the world, but sin is not taken into account when there is no Law. Nevertheless, death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.”

“By one man’s offence, many died.”

“One offence resulted in condemnation”

“Through one man’s offence judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation”

Clearly from these passages we are told that through the sin of the one man Adam we have all in our natural or human state become sinners. This is known as “original sin”. Because all are descended from Adam all men share in the sin of Adam. Outside of Jesus we are heirs of Adam. The wages of sin is death. From the day of

our birth we are IN ADAM and under the same sentence of death. The key scripture in this is found in 1 Corinthians 15:21:-

“IN ADAM all die, even so IN CHRIST all shall be made alive.”

If we are outside the Grace of God we are standing IN ADAM. We are standing IN CHRIST if we have accepted Him and His salvation. Before anyone turns from sin to God through the Lord and saviour Jesus Christ they are standing IN ADAM under the sentence of death.

### **Standing in Adam**

What then does it mean to be standing IN ADAM? It means that no matter what I do, what I say, how I attempt to please God - it makes no difference! I am still a sinner under the sentence of death.

If I go to church regularly and pray daily - IN ADAM I am under a death sentence!

If I work hard for charity and help many - IN ADAM I am under a death sentence!

If I am baptised or confirmed - IN ADAM I am under a death sentence!

If I give all I have to the poor - IN ADAM I am under a death sentence!

**Learn** the following scripture from Isaiah 64:5-6 which describes perfectly all men who are standing IN ADAM:-

“You are indeed angry, for we have sinned - In these ways we continue; and we need to be saved. But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”

If we are standing IN ADAM, if we are clothed in his garments of sin and unrighteousness then any good work that we might try to do is likened to filthy rags which are good only for burning.

### **How then can we be saved?**

This is the big question. If we are clothed IN ADAM and all our righteousness is filthy rags what can we do to be saved? If everything that I do brings me no cancellation of the death sentence what can I do?

**Change my clothes!**

**Stand outside of Adam!**

**Stand in Christ!**

Being IN ADAM is so negative. The opposite, of standing IN CHRIST, is so positive. If we go back to Romans Chapter 5:15-17 we read about this positive:-

“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the Grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Again, the gift of God is not like result of the one man’s sin. The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift of God followed many trespasses and brought justification (that is rightness with God). For, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those that receive God’s abundant provision of Grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life **through the one man Jesus Christ.**”

Now IN HIM the whole situation is reversed. Now we see the full results of the message of Grace. Now we see why Jesus said “You must be born again!” Jesus knew the full purpose of His gospel. He did not pay the full price at Calvary because it was a good theological idea!

Jesus knew that the only way to satisfy the righteous justice of God the Father was to cancel out the effect of standing in the death of Adam by becoming death for us so that IN HIM we might become the righteousness of God. So that we need no longer be clothed in the death of Adam but be clothed in the same righteousness and purity and holiness and Grace and truth and life with which He Himself is clothed.

How? You **MUST** be born again if you are to see the kingdom of Heaven. All our righteous acts are filthy rags. His righteous act brings us life IN HIM.

Now we see our standing IN HIM. In Adam nothing that we did could bring us salvation. IN HIM nothing that we do can add to our salvation nor take away from it. It is complete.

In Adam no act, whether good or bad, had any effect against the righteous judgment that was set against us - that is death.

IN CHRIST, no act whether good or bad, has any effect against the Grace that is now credited to us - that is eternal life.

(“If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”)

**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**

Our right standing with God which is IN JESUS CHRIST has nothing to do with anything that we may do. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. As we too live by faith in Christ, the fullness of Christ is credited to us as righteousness. A free gift. Grace alone.

**AMAZING GRACE!**

## Questions - Part 5

1. Faith is.....
2. Works are.....
3. How can a man become righteous?
4. Complete the following verse and state where in the Bible it is found:- “For by Grace you have been saved, through faith, .....
5. How can we tell if the Holy Spirit is dwelling within a man?
6. What are the four examples of faith that are given by James?
7. What do you think is most important in your life; works or faith?
8. Jesus said “I have come to fulfil the Law.” How did He do this?
9. How is it possible for you to fulfil the requirements of the Law?
10. List what you consider to be the seven most important benefits of grace that you have through being IN HIM.
11. What is the mistake in the following Biblical quotation:- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with many spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ”?
12. Where are you standing - IN ADAM or IN CHRIST?
13. What do you understand by the expression “original sin”?
14. What is the inheritance that a man can expect if he is an heir of Adam?
15. “If we confess our sin, He is.....”

**Remember:** When you return the answers to these questions please return the answers to the 4 Exercises that are included in this study.

Write your name here.....