

Let's talk about faith. - True Faith, our faith, the gift of faith, the faith of God, faith in God, a measure of Faith and Saving Faith.

The last few studies we have gone through the benefits of the New Covenant which we "receive by believing in Christ". Here is a quick summary of what we received when we believed in Christ:

- We become United (in union) with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Our spirit is complete through our union with Christ.
- We abide Him and He in us and we are seated with Him in Heavenly places.
- We no longer have a sinful nature and therefore are no longer a slave to sin.
- We have been set free from the law.
- We have received and have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- We died to our old life and now walk in newness of life!
- We now have a new way of Faith as opposed to keeping the law.
- Christ Took Our Punishment and has taken away our sin. He is our propitiation for sin.
- Made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.
- We now have complete access to His presence because of the blood of Christ.

Recap from last meeting: **Eph. 1:13-14 (NLT)**. vs 13 "...sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance..." What is the inheritance? The Holy Spirit is called a "seal" and "God's guarantee". A guarantee that we (believers) will receive the inheritance promised long ago. The inheritance is eternity in Heaven with the Lord. This is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit of which believers have. One commentary put it this way: "The believer's yet-to-be-received inheritance — eternity in heaven with the Lord — is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit."

Eph. 4:30-32 (NLT) – Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by the way you live; He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved. Full context of this verse is living as children of the light and living in the light Eph. 4:17- 5-20. – This will be a future meeting, just on this subject of living in the light.

1. Let's talk about true faith

- a) Before moving onto our union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit I want to dive into **Heb. 10:19-39**. Let's read this through together in the (AMPC). The title for this section of scripture in my Bible is "A Call to Persevere." It is labeled this way because the writer of Hebrew is writing to believers who have gone through much persecution and trials. He is encouraging them to stay the course.
- b) Next, read through **Heb. 10:26** commentary (see attached).
- c) Also, to go along with vs. **Heb. 10:23 (AMPC)** in regards to holding fast without wavering let's read **Col. 1:23 (NLT)** – Continue to believe, stand firm, don't drift away.

- d) Parable of the sower **Mat. 13:1-9**. And then the explanation of the parable in **Mat. 13:18-23** and talk about the 4 soils. Talk about the condition of the soils (our hearts) and how it ties into salvation. What drives the condition of the soils prior to salvation?
- e) **Eph. 4:14 (AMPC)** – Discuss “children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching”
- f) **2 Tim. 4:3 (AMPC)** – “*For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction...*”. I say this time is here. Talk about social media news bubble with people tailoring all their information that aligns with their beliefs, political leanings, biases, agendas, etc... How it ties in with **2 Tim. 4:3**.
- g) This is my notes on this: When people are spending more time listening to and reading what other people say about God's word rather than reading God's word for themselves, then they are at very high risk of "being like children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine" and at high risk of being the " [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men" - **Eph. 4:14** and **2 Tim. 4:3** noted above are very related to: all noted above: "A call to persevere, stay the course, continue to believe, stand firm, don't drift away" Also note: after **Heb. 10:19-39** the writer of Hebrews dives into the great examples of faith in Chapter 11. Let's read **Heb. 11:1-6** to get a taste.

2. Our faith, the gift of faith, the faith of God, faith in God and a measure of faith.

- a) What is faith? The simple version: **Heb. 11:1 (KJV)** “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (**NLT**) “*Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*” Through faith in Christ we are saved and thus preserve our souls. **Heb. 10:39 (AMPC)**. With faith we believe that Jesus has forgiven our sins, that God can and will heal people as we pray for the sick, that when we pray, He hears us and responds, that He will provide all our needs, add to the list... How does faith in Christ help us with our everyday lives? Do we believe that God is our provider and that he has a plan for our lives?
- b) Let's read **Eph. 2:8** (let's read in order **KJV, NLT, AMPC**): first **Eph. 2:8 (KJV)**, what is the “it” in this scripture? Now lets' read (**NLT**) it is even a bit clearer in the (**AMPC**) as to what the “it” actually is. The “it” is salvation, not faith. Salvation is the free gift; we receive this free gift of salvation through faith by believing in Jesus Christ. A gift of salvation received by faith, not by works. So, there is the “gift of salvation” that is “received by faith,” what faith, you ask? The “measure of faith” given to all of humanity.
- c) Every person has been given a “measure of faith” (**Rom. 12:3**), enabling them to believe in Christ or reject Him through free will. This measure of faith allows us to trust in various things, such as believing a chair will support us when we sit. Alongside this faith, God has granted us free will, allowing us to choose whether to accept or reject Christ. God does not impose salvation on anyone; He provides each individual with the freedom to decide, using the measure of faith and free will He has given them.

d) **Gal. 2:16** "we are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ." Or is it "faith in Christ"? Let's read **Gal. 2:16** in progression of **KJV, NLT, AMPC**. I spent a lot of time on this passage in full context. What I had to reconcile was the KJV translation of "faith of Christ" vs all other English translations of "faith in Christ." I have finally reconciled this down to this: "It was the "faith of Christ" that made a way for our salvation. A way to be reconciled back to the Father (full context "2 Cor. 5:14-21"). His faithfulness to the Father all the way to the cross. It was the Faith of Christ that made a way to salvation for all who would believe in Him. - It is "our faith in Him" that allows us to "receive" that salvation. (Justified and made right with God because of Christ's sacrifice and through our faith in Christ "Rom. 5:1-11 (NLT)" (Note: "faith" in vs. 1-2"). – for fuller context of Rom. 5:1-11, we must go back to Rom. 1 and see who Paul is writing to. Let's read: **Rom. 1:5,8,12, 16-17**. – Rom. 1:5 (When we believe and obey, we bring glory to His name.) vs. 16-17 "...*the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes*".

e) Same goes for Gal. 2:20. "of God" vs. "in God." It's "in God" in all other English translations. - Gal. 2:20 let's read it in (**KJV**) "live by the faith of the Son of God" and then (**NLT**) "live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God" and then in (**AMPC**) "live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God". I like to wrap this up into "*Having faith in the Son of God and having faith in the faith of the Son of God. And because of this faith in Christ, we now have the faith of God because He is in those who believe in Him.*"

Homework:

Genuine faith – The testing of your faith will show if your faith is genuine:
Jas. 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-10; Rom. 5:3-4 ; Heb. 10:22-25 (AMPC)

Great examples of faith: **Heb. 11** - The New Covenant provides a new way of faith: **Gal. 2:16-21, 3:23-25 (NLT), Phil. 3:7-9 (AMPC), Rom. 3:21-22, 4:16, 5:1-2 (NLT)**, and complete access to His presence (**Heb. 10:19-25 AMPC**) because of the blood of Christ and our faith in Him!

An in-depth study on Eph. 2:8

This article is a grammatical deep dive into Eph. 2:8. Highly recommend this article, but it must be read all the way through in one reading to grab a hold of what Eph. 2:8 is saying.

[Is Faith a Gift from God According to Ephesians 2:8? A Grammatical Analysis](#) by John F. Hart

Spoiler alert, the conclusion of this article supports that salvation is the gift, not faith.

Interpreting **Eph. 2:8** as faith being a gift of God is a Calvinistic and Reformed Theology interpretation, believing that you must be regeneration prior to believing and that God must give you the faith to believe prior to believing. The Bible does not teach this. See my article "[Believe in Jesus Christ and Receive His Free Gift of Salvation](#)" for a detailed walk through the scriptures and what they have to say regarding believing in Christ. In full context one must believe (with free will) in Christ to be saved. One can with free will choose to believe or choose to reject the truth. Salvation is the gift that is spoken of in **Eph. 2:8**.

"For it is by grace you are saved through faith — and this is (salvation) is not from yourselves, it (salvation) is the gift of God — not by works so that no one can boast."

The AMPC spells this out more clearly: Eph. 2:8 (AMPC) "*For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God;*"

I also recommend this in-depth video teaching regarding **Eph. 2:8** using John F. Hart's article noted above as a reference:

[Is Faith a Gift from God? - Detailed Analysis of Ephesians 2:8-9](#) by Alex Shatterstar

Deeper study on Gal. 2:16 and 2:20

The difference in Galatians 2:16 and 2:20 between the KJV ("faith of Jesus Christ" / "faith of the Son of God") and nearly all modern English translations ("faith in Jesus Christ" / "faith in the Son of God" or similar phrasing) comes down to how translators handle a specific Greek genitive construction, not to any theological agenda.

The Greek Phrase

The original text uses πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ (pisteōs Iēsou Christou) in Galatians 2:16 and πίστεως υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ (pisteōs huiou tou theou) in 2:20. Πίστεως is the genitive form of πίστις ("faith" or sometimes "faithfulness"). In Greek, when one noun in the genitive follows another noun, it can be read in two legitimate ways:

- **Objective genitive:** “faith **in** Christ” — Christ is the object toward whom our faith is directed (i.e., we believe in Him).
- **Subjective genitive:** “faith/faithfulness **of** Christ” — Christ is the one doing the believing or being faithful (i.e., His perfect faithfulness or obedience).

Both interpretations are grammatically valid because there is no preposition (like εἰς “in/into” or ἐν “in”) to lock it one way or the other.

Why the KJV Says “Faith **of**”

The 1611 KJV translators followed the pattern of earlier English Bibles (Tyndale, Coverdale, Geneva) that rendered these genitives literally with “of.” In older English, “the faith of Christ” naturally carried the sense of “the faith that belongs to Christ” or “Christ’s own faith/faithfulness.” This was simply a straightforward way to translate a genitive chain without adding words. The same construction appears consistently in the KJV in other Pauline passages (Romans 3:22, 26; Galatians 3:22; Philippians 3:9).

Why Modern Translations Say “Faith **in**”

Virtually all contemporary translations (NASB, ESV, NIV, NLT, CSB, etc.) choose “in” because:

- The immediate context of Galatians repeatedly stresses **personal believing** as the means of being justified (Galatians 2:16 says three times that “we have believed in Christ Jesus”; see also 3:22).
- Adding “in” makes the meaning clearer to modern readers and better reflects what most scholars see as Paul’s primary emphasis here: our act of trusting Christ.
- The objective genitive (“in”) fits the flow of Paul’s argument more smoothly in English.

Both Readings Can Work Together

Many biblical scholars see truth in both genitives without forcing a choice:

- The “faith/faithfulness **of** Christ” points to Jesus’ perfect obedience and trust in the Father all the way to the cross — that is what accomplished redemption and opened the way for anyone to be justified (see the broader context in Romans 5:18–19; 2 Corinthians 5:14–21).
- Our “faith **in** Him” is how we personally receive and appropriate that finished work.

Here is a summary of my notes in section 2.d) and 2.e) in the study above:

- “It was the ‘faith of Christ’ that made a way for our salvation... His faithfulness to the Father all the way to the cross.”
- “It is ‘our faith in Him’ that allows us to ‘receive’ that salvation.”
- “Having faith in the Son of God and having faith in the faith of the Son of God. And because of this faith in Christ, we now have the faith of God because He is in those who believe in Him.”

This is a balanced, biblical way to hold both aspects together.