



**How Is Your Prayer Life?
Why We Do What We Do as the Church Today
Romans 1:8-17**

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Romans 1:8–17

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, always in my prayers requesting if perhaps now, at last by the will of God, I will succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged



together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also just as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to the uncultured, both to the wise and to the foolish. **So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH."** (NASB 2020)

When I was in Bible school millions of years ago, I will never forget one of the assignments I did in my English class. It was to review all of the letters of Paul and based only on what Paul had to say about the topic of prayer, describe how Paul viewed prayer and what it meant to him.

I marked up my Bible looking for references from Paul about prayer. And right here in Romans 1, was a huge example of what Paul would pray for and how he did this. It sounds like he is explaining and he is but at the same time, we see a prayer here as well. In fact, Romans is filled with prayer even though the word only appears once in Romans 8:26.

As Paul begins, we are led to believe he is starting a list for us, we think that because he does indeed say first. But there is no second, or third or fourth. Just the first. Writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit still allows for the author to reflect their own personality and Paul is doing that. As he is dictating this letter, he ticks off first, and then his mind begins to go to other things he wants to relate to the believers in Rome. Organized, yes, indeed he is, subject to the same stream of consciousness writing we tend towards, yep, that too.

And since he is now praying, we discover that he begins with thanksgiving and the framework he uses reflects how personal his and our salvation is to be for each of us.

"I thank my God." God is his, personally. That has a huge meaning for us, if we are followers of Jesus Christ, that means that for each of individually, God is ours personally. Yes, this does indeed imply relationship. If He is ours, then that also means we are becoming more and more aware each and everyday just who He is and what His attributes are.

Our life is in the process of changing, the first thing people see, or hear actually, our language is in the process of reflecting who we serve. We find we are bold when we talk for Him. And believe it or not, it even begins to sound like we might actually know what we are talking about now too.

The exciting thing, our speech reflects our King, and it is because He is my God. We were indeed created to be His imagers and in Christ, that is now obtainable. To fully image our God, to fully reflect someone else, you need to know them.

As an officer in the Air Force, on official business, I reflected the United States and the Constitution. That alone is a heavy burden and to assist in that, by act of congress, I was made to be an officer and a gentleman. But that alone doesn't change anybody as I have worked with many who do not even come close to the gentleman part.

We though, as Jesus followers, have the Holy Spirit in us to help and conform us. Yep, the goal is to get you and me to fully reflect even in actions, Him.

So, how much do you and I act like God everyday. Remember, He is ours personally. Where are we on the scale of relationship.



Are we still busy chasing raisin cakes?

Hosea 3:1

“And the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as **the LORD loves the children of Israel**, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”” (ESV)

Before Jesus Christ entered our lives, we were busy chasing after other various loves, they may have been actual gods in name, or we treated them as such by elevating them on pedestals, we were not willing to put the Lord on, until we met Him. While we were busy doing that, we were no different than the nation was as they chased after other gods turning away from God Himself.

They chased after raisin cakes, and so did we. Yet God loved His people and pursued them, He also loves us. Paul will show this clearly later in Romans.

Romans 5:8–9

“But **God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” (NASB 2020)

To claim Him as our God, as Paul has, that means we have finally come to our senses and realize that God's love relationship with us has been offered to us through the blood of Christ.

When we believe, we become one more part of the love story Jesus talked with Nicodemus about.

John 3:16–21

“**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life**. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, so that his deeds will not be exposed. But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed in God.**”” (NASB 2020)

The love is reciprocal we practice the truth and come to light.

Revelation 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; **if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.**” (NASB 2020)

Just as Jesus told the church of Laodicea, as He was standing on the outside knocking on the door to come in, He wants relationship and once we hear His voice and open the door by believing, relationship begins. The picture is one of sitting and sharing a meal together as well as all the conversation that goes along with that.

He wants to be, and if we are followers of Jesus, He is indeed, our God. Personally. And as Paul relates, our access to God and the relationship we enjoy with God is because of the access provided by the blood of Jesus Christ.



This priority in the life of Paul is going to be evident in what he teaches in this book. He is a servant of God and unlike his past life, where he would pray towards the Holy of Holies, he now knows he has full access to the Father in prayer through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 27:50–51

“And **Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and gave up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.**” (NASB 2020)

Direct access to the Father, blocked due the sin of Adam and not possible since Genesis 3, became possible again and yes, it is earth shaking news.

What is it that Paul is thankful for about the church in Rome? Their reputation. In a day and age with no newspapers, television, internet, and the only means of communication was sandal net, the church in Rome was known about throughout the Empire. And Paul had nothing to do with it.

It may have been pilgrims returning from Pentecost (Acts 2:10), or military personnel like Cornelius (Acts 10:1), or business people like Priscilla and Aquila. The latter couple probably did not take the gospel to Rome. They seem to have taken it from Rome to Corinth (Acts 18:2–3) and later to Ephesus (Acts 18:26). They are prime examples of how early Christian laity shared the gospel wherever they went, and this is likely how Christianity first reached the capital city. (Polhill 1999, 279)

The life in Christ that was experienced by the church in Rome was so new and fresh when compared to what was there, it spread from there and became known throughout the Empire. I wonder how widely known we are for following Jesus.

I suspect at this point in Paul’s life, as focused and directed as he was, he may have talked about going to Rome more than once to just about everyone. He wanted this but was not sure it was in God’s will for him.

I know what that’s like. I remember my senior year in High School, my unsaved father wanted me to go to the Air Force Academy, but I felt like the Lord wanted me in Bible School and I prayed pretty much every day that way. But to honor my father, I did everything you needed to do to try and obtain a nomination to the Academy. But I was competing against others whose parents were also large donors to the political war chest of the member of the House, dad wasn’t.

At the end of the day, the Lord slammed the door to the Academy shut and opened the door to Bible school. He was the one who put me there and He was the one who kept me there for four years as my father refused to provide any support for tuition.

I still remember receiving the acceptance letter as well as a minimal athletic scholarship letter as well. I had no idea how this was going to work but God did indeed make a way since it was His will. He does that.

Paul knew that as well and he was looking and praying for the time to go to Rome.

Romans 1:9

“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to **how unceasingly I make mention of you,**” (NASB 2020)

Paul is letting the church in Rome know that his prayers for the church there are not the occasional, “and bless the church in Rome” kind of prayer. When Paul prays for you, he prays for you.



1 Thessalonians 3:10

“as **we keep praying most earnestly night and day** that we may see your faces, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?” (NASB 2020)

Paul saw prayer as work, as a vigil. He is persistent in his prayer for the church in Rome. When he says he is unceasing in his prayers, he uses the Greek word ἀδιαλείπτως (adialeiptos). “It does refer to constancy, but ongoing effort in an intermittent sense that fits practicality and balance. The word was used for the frequency of a cough, according to Moulton and Milligan. To pray without ceasing is not to pray neglecting other vital parts of a watchful Christian life and its duties. It is analogous to a stove pilate (sic) that remains on, ready to leap into use for cooking, yet not cooking things without times in between.” (Rosscup 2008, 1979)

Daniel was persistent in prayer. Leading into Daniel 10, he had been fasting and praying for three weeks. It was at the end of that time that Gabriel appeared to him.

Daniel 10:12–13

“Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. **Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven.** I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.” (NLT)

The answer was inbound from day one, but there is a war going on spiritually and that warfare prevented the message from getting through for 21 days. Because of Daniel’s persistence in prayer, Michael went to assist Gabriel so the message could be delivered.

Nehemiah gives us another example of persistence in prayer. He first hears of the situation in Jerusalem involving the walls and begins to fast and pray while doing so (Nehemiah 1:1), the Lord works on his heart and begins to formulate a plan in it. Four months later, while serving the King, the King noticed a change in Nehemiah’s demeanor and asked a few questions opening up the door for him to make a request (Nehemiah 2:5).

For us, the lesson is simple, we are to be persistent in prayer. Does that mean 21 days to 4 months using our two examples or does it mean praying beyond that. It means praying beyond even that. Jesus tells us the following.

Luke 11:9

“**And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**” (ESV)

These three words, ask, seek, and knock are simple enough but, in the Greek, we get the full impact of what Jesus has just said. First of all, all three verbs are in the imperative, in other words, a command.

The Lord not only commands us to pray, He also expects us, commands us, to be persistent in prayer. Let’s take a look at the entire context of this passage. Jesus is relating a story of someone needing something from a friend at an unreasonable time of day, and he is persistent.

Luke 11:8–10

“I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet **because of his persistence** he will rise and give him as many as he needs. So I say to you, **ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (NKJV)



Because of the verb tense in the Greek, let me adjust the verse to reflect that.

Luke 11:9

“So I say to you, ask and keep on asking, and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking, and you will find; knock and keep on knocking, and it will be opened to you.” (NKJV) And do not even think about putting a time limitation on this as the verb form does not include the idea of ever stopping.

“Nevertheless let us not forget that the stops, as well as the steps, of a good man are ordered of the Lord.” (Pierson 1899, 196)

All of that to say we are to persist in prayer. “Jesus promises that God will answer prayer! God does not waste our time in prayer, but He wants our obedience and our hearts in prayer. He wants us to come to Him as to a loving Father by needy children. When we have a need we are to bring that need to God in prayer. We are not to seek to fix the problem on our own or meet the need on our own. Self-sufficiency is sin! We are not to come to God just when we need something, but we are to come to God because we love Him and want to spend time with Him.” (Andrews 2018, 107-108)

Prayer, as our pilot light, is always burning and ready to go, prayer is consistent and constant and there are those times we turn up the heat on our prayers because we perceive a need, hear of a need, or are burdened by what others are going through.

Prayer is our first go to, not last. It is the option of first, not last resort. Too many of us use it as the option of last resort.

Prayer is indeed the nuclear option, and God wants us to come to Him immediately and always. You see, if we have an ongoing relationship with our Lord, then prayer becomes our life and as we breathe, we praise and pray.

Psalms 150:1–6

“Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!**” (ESV)

That is not Biblical hyperbole. That is a prophetic statement of a reality that will occur universally after the rapture of the church takes place. Shortly after we arrive in heaven, we will witness the closing of the most important property deal of history.

Jesus Himself, as the Lamb that had been slain, steps forward to take the scroll of the property deed for planet earth from the Father as He is the only one who is worthy to open it as His blood as purchased it. And at that moment, this prophecy is fulfilled. Everything that has breathe will indeed praise the Lord.

Revelation 5:13–14

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.” (ESV)



Romans 1:9–10

“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to **how unceasingly I make mention of you, always in my prayers requesting if perhaps now, at last by the will of God, I will succeed in coming to you.**” (NASB 2020)

Paul began praying this request, mentioning and persistently praying for the church as well as reflecting his desire to come to Rome to encourage them, way prior to his writing this letter. I suspect he had been considering Rome since first running into Aquila and Priscilla on his first visit to Corinth. He has already been praying for this for years and he will be at least another two plus years beyond this point before he finally arrives there.

Paul was emotionally invested in those he prayed for, and even though he had never been to Rome, he loved the church there and wanted to be with them. I am always more than a little concerned when I meet someone who is a pastor and doesn't want to spend time with the flock he has been given the under-shepherd job of caring for. The Lord does indeed call all personality types into ministry, and He can and does mold anyone to be the under-shepherd they need to be, even introverts. But there are those who say no and go off and hide from the flock and work very hard to never engage with them at any level at all.

I have worked with pastors who love the flock and even though the flock is 1600 plus, you know they love the flock and they are always there with the flock. And then there are those I have worked with, same size church, who are never available except for a select few. They even go as far as to have their email screened as well as their phone calls to make certain that no errant lamb makes it through and actually talks to them.

Where did we ever think that is what our Lord wants from us? Paul makes it clear, he is in this for the long haul, he is not distant from them nor is he aloof from them. When Paul finally arrived in Rome, it was mutual. After arriving at Puteoli.

Acts 28:14–15

“There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.” (ESV)

That is a serious trip to go and meet someone who you have only received a letter from several years ago. Was Paul praying persistently? Yes, he was and the flock in Rome knew it.

Romans 1:11–12

“For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.” (NASB 2020)

This is how it should be in the body of Christ. Paul “expects to receive a blessing from them as well as giving one to them. This is surely true among Christians always. When the relationship is what it should be, the blessings run in both directions.” (Schaeffer 1998, 20)

This is contrary to what we see take place with the traveling healing and spiritual power road show which floats through here every now and then. The intent is to obtain a following, fleece the following, and then move on to another pasture of disaffected sheep and goats. And repeat. Meanwhile, make sure you subscribe, for a fee, to my personal vlog and I will send you a personal video note once a week letting you know how much I care for you and am praying for you. And for an additional seed offering of only...I will also send you a cloth I have prayed over. Spirit filled, maybe, just not the Holy Spirit.



Paul is providing for us the true ministry model. But today, we see this.

2 Timothy 3:1–9

“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. **For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!** They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.) These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres.” (NLT)

Is Paul talking about the flock or about those who want to mislead the flock. We are tempted to say yes to both, but the context here in Timothy is a warning not only of the fickle heart of phony followers, but more so, phony pastors too.

Here in Romans, we have learned Paul prays for and loves those who he has never met. He is jealous for them and yet has never truly ministered to them. He wants the flock to follow faithfully the gospel. He wants to pray with them, even lay hands and impart spiritual gifting on them which, as an apostle, he could and did do (1 Timothy 4:14). He wants to be an encouragement to the flock, and he wants to be encouraged as well by their growing faith in Jesus Christ.

That is our model and how we are to do church. What Paul warns Timothy of is not new, people have always been around who emulate the attributes he outlines to him in 2 Timothy 3. But now, it seems to be everywhere and in the leadership.

Lovers of self, it is all about me.

Lovers of money, and they spent how many weeks on a series on giving?

Boastful, arrogant, slanderers – and this is towards God as well as to pretty much everyone else as well. False teachers, such as the late Charles Capps, will point away from the word and say such arrogant and boastful unbiblical things as this.

“The Holy Spirit said, Man's words should be his will toward God. The angels were designed as created beings to minister for you and they know that. They listen to the words that you speak. Every word that you speak the angels hear, for they are always beside you, waiting to hear what you choose to bind or loose. Then they are busy to perform or cause to come to pass the things you speak if they are in agreement with the Word of God. By authority of your words, they will maneuver you into a position where these things will come to pass.” (Capps 1978, 66-67)

We are to stay away from those who are false teachers and those who embrace them as they are leading people who need Jesus to seek another Jesus who is not in the Bible.

Paul has already encountered people like this in Thessalonica and elsewhere. He is seeing the wolves beginning to float around the church to draw away those who know the Lord to follow them instead.



If that is the case Paul, then why haven't you come to see us here in Rome? Good question and Paul anticipates that. I asked a close brother who is also on our board about that and his answer, invite me already. Sometimes we are the weakest link. That isn't the case here.

Romans 1:13–15

"I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also just as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to the uncultured, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." (NASB 2020)

Hint, there is a real spiritual war going on. Plans have been made, most likely multiple times but it was not what the Lord wanted just yet. Paul is like most of us, see the hill, conquer the hill, take the next one you see immediately after.

He is relying on the Lord for guidance. As we have already discussed, this is a matter of prayer for him, prayer is his lifestyle as it should be ours, and when the Lord says not right now, he can easily hear it since he is closely walking with Him. Why not now? Paul does not know it yet but he still needs to share the Lord with two Roman governor of Judea, the Sanhedrin, King Agrippa and Berniece, and the Emperor of Rome, Nero. Paul wants what the Lord wants and not right now is what he is hearing.

His issue is not the same many of us have. We are still working on the close walk thing, or we think God is doing something else and we wind up like Moses.

Moses knew that God was delivering His people, yet at the Red Sea, his faith waffled, mine would have as well. And we read this.

Exodus 14:15–16

"The LORD said to Moses, **"Why are you crying out for help? Tell the people to move forward.** Lift up your stick and hold it out over the sea. The water will divide, and the Israelites will be able to walk through the sea on dry ground." (GNB)

Tim LaHaye puts it this way. "There are a lot of why questions that we lift up to God. Every day people are looking to heaven and crying out in frustration. "Lord, why aren't you doing something about this? Why is this happening to me? Why isn't anything happening? Why aren't you helping me with this problem?" We saturate the airwaves with the why questions of life. I'm convinced that God has one answer for almost everyone of those questions. He says, I'm just waiting on you." (LaHaye, Jenkins and Martin 2004, 289)

Paul knows he will get to Rome, just not now. God is having Paul wait for now because there are others who need to hear about Jesus, like the entire island of Malta (Acts 28).

He is waiting on the Lord, but again, there are those times where the Lord is waiting on you or me to step out in faith and take that next step He pointed out in prayer last week or in the word a month ago. Here is the thing, when we finally do step out in faith as He has asked us to, look out. God moves fast, the Red Sea parts and let's go for a walk on dry ground. Step out today, don't put off being the faithful follower of Jesus that He wants you to be.

Paul is absolutely ready to preach the gospel in Rome. The reality, he is ready to preach the gospel on Mars or anywhere else there are those who need to know about the Lord. Why is that?



Romans 1:16–17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: **“BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”**” (NASB 2020)

If you are like me, you read that and are ready to run off anywhere for the Lord and do battle. Paul is empowered with and filled with the Holy Spirit. He also knows the power of the gospel to change a life. His. He went from being a hunter killer of Christians to a seeker of souls for Jesus Christ. That is a huge change and one only Jesus could do.

But if we allow the enemy to get in the way of our walk in the Spirit or if we take our eyes off the Lord and begin to look at the situation around us. We may find ourselves doing an Elijah runner.

You know what that is. Elijah confronted the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel. God was totally in charge and He showed up in massive power. After spending almost a whole day with the priests of Baal trying to get their fallen angel impersonating as a god to light a fire, it was Elijah’s turn. And after having everything doused with water multiple times, he prayed, God answered, and the sacrifice and the altar went up in flames. He killed all the priests himself. Then came the next morning.

1 Kings 19:2

“So Jezebel sent this message to Elijah: **“May the gods strike me and even kill me if by this time tomorrow I have not killed you just as you killed them.”**” (NLT)

And Elijah did a runner. He freaked out in fear and ran all the way to Mount Sinai in Saudi Arabia. Not a short trip at all. And it is there that God showed up again and asked Elijah a simple question, **“What are you doing here?”** (1 Kings 19:13). God did not pull him down, He encouraged him, recommissioned him, and sent him back for more.

If you have ever found yourself, in your eyes, not exactly taking the stand for God’s word as you thought you should, you are in line behind Elijah.

Paul points this recovery out for us in Romans 8. First of all, point one.

Romans 8:1

“Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (NASB 2020)

Exercise 1 John 1:9, learn from it, and move forward. Then point two.

Romans 8:28

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (NASB 2020)

Even blowing it. Now that we have learned we are not Super Saints, but fallible servants. Point three.

Romans 8:37–39

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NASB 2020)

Paul is centered on the gospel and his life is centered on the gospel. It is indeed the dynamis of God. First salvation. Alfred Nobel chose that Greek word to call his newly developed product, dynamite.



Yes, the gospel blasts away all the things we put in the way of salvation.

The Gospel is not the story of good Man. It is the story of the God Man who came to this planet to redeem us from the results of the fall in Genesis 3. It is the life changing story of the power we have in Jesus Christ and through His shed blood to not only be forgiven of our sins, but to be declared righteous before God and no longer live under the curse of eternal death which we were born under. We are now truly free in Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.” (NASB 2020)

Romans 1:17

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”” (NASB 2020)

There is nothing you or I can do to make ourselves acceptable in the sight of God. He said that in Isaiah.

Isaiah 64:6

“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our wrongdoings, like the wind, take us away.” (NASB 2020)

The only way is Jesus.

We cannot earn salvation, we cannot buy salvation, we cannot work for God to make ourselves worthy as we are not worthy and never shall be on our own. There is only one way you and I can obtain the righteousness of God, it is a by-faith kind of a thing. It is only available by accepting it by faith.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 1:17

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith to faith**; as it is written: “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”” (NASB 2020)

“From faith to faith” simply means out of faith into faith. God saves you by faith, you live by faith, you die by faith, and you’ll be in heaven by faith. (McGee 1997, 651)

We become born again by faith. We believe what He has done for us on the cross and that He walked out of the grave.

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)



And once we come to Christ, the exercise of faith has only begun. We are declared righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (NASB 2020)

The act of God in justification by faith is not an arbitrary decision on His part. He does not disregard His holiness and His justice. Since God saves us by grace, this means that there is no merit in us. He saves us on no other ground than that we trust Jesus. God is in danger of impugning His own justice if the penalty is not paid. He is not going to open the back door to heaven and slip sinners in under cover of darkness. But because He loves you, Christ died for you to make a way. The Lord Jesus Christ is the way to heaven. (McGee 1997, 651-652)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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