

The Blessedness of Believing

Romans 4:4–8 (NKJV)

⁴Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

⁵But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

⁶just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

⁷“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

⁸Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

- *Apostle Paul described one of the wonderful aspects of the blessedness of believing by quoting King David, “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”*
- *The context of this quote comes from Psalm 32, where David referred to how God forgave him for his intentional sins of both adultery and premeditated murder.*
- *To fully appreciate the blessedness David received by being forgiven, we must understand that under the Mosaic Covenant and the Levitical Laws there was no sacrifice or provision for forgiveness to those who personally and intentionally sinned. There remained only a fearful judgment and the ensuing punishment, “Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (Hebrews 10:28, NKJV).*

2 Samuel 12:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

¹⁴However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

- *When David was confronted by Nathan the prophet regarding his sins of adultery and murder, David’s only response was, “I have sinned against the LORD.”*
- *David fully acknowledged and confessed his sins. He did not ask for forgiveness nor did he expect to be forgiven, because he clearly knew the penalty the Levitical Law demanded and he resigned himself to that fate.*
- *As David surrendered to the righteous judgment of God, out of Nathan’s mouth came the most wonderful and amazing words, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”*

- *The words that David heard were both unexpected and astonishing, because they transcended the Levitical Laws and opened David's eyes of faith to see another dispensation and another covenant of what God had prepared, not only for David, but for all those who would believe God.*
- *God revealed to David that his very sins were dealt with by God Himself, as Nathan said, "The Lord also has put away your sins."*
- *The Lord took away David's sin so he was no longer under the judgment and eternal penalty the Levitical Laws demanded.*
- *David's confession of his sin received a double blessing from God—not only was his life spared, but God put away his sins.*
- *But even more amazing is how God provided a prophetic insight into how He was going to take away David's sins, "the child also who is born to you shall surely die."*
- *"the child also who is born to you shall surely die." - Many of the Old Testament prophecies were layered and contained both near and distant fulfillments, and this prophecy is no exception.*
- *Because of David's sin, the son born out of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba was going to die. However, there was another Child who would be born in the line of David who was surely going to die.*
- *The New Testament begins with these words, "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." (Matthew 1:1, NKJV).*
- *Bathsheba bore David another son, Solomon, whose line would eventually lead to the birth of the Son of David, Jesus Christ.*
- *It was this Son, the Son of David, Jesus the Messiah, who would die to take away not only David's sins, but the sins of all those who would believe God and put their faith in His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection.*
- *With the words of Nathan ringing in his ears, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die," David would later pen the words of the psalm, "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin." (Psalm 32:1-2, NKJV).*
- *David fully grasped the blessedness of believing and understood "the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works."*

Romans 3:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

²²even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

- *The Law and the Prophets themselves testify that righteousness comes apart from the Law, through faith in Jesus Christ.*
- *The first blessedness of believing is the assurance of our salvation, not based on our works, but based on Christ's finished work at Calvary through His suffering, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.*
- *The blessedness of believing does not stop at the assurance of our salvation, but it actually opens the door to all that God has for us.*
- *God has unspeakably wonderful provisions and blessings for those of His children who are willing to learn to walk in full confidence and faith in Him.*

Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- *God is described in this verse as the “God of hope.”*
- *God desires for us not only to have hope, but also to abound or overflow in hope—and not just any hope, but a hope that is empowered by the Holy Spirit.*
- *Because we believe, God fills us with joy and peace, then we abound with hope though the power of the Holy Spirit. Without joy and peace, hope cannot flourish in our hearts.*
- *A Christian who is fearful and joyless cannot be filled with hope.*
- *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing” – Believing is the means by which we are filled with all joy and peace.*
- *“Faith” is a noun and “believing” is the verb form of “faith,” so believing is putting our faith into action or into motion.*
- *The Greek word for faith is πίστις (pistis) and it means, “to believe to the extent of complete trust and reliance; to have confidence in, to trust.”*
- *“In rendering πίστις (pistis) it would be wrong to select a term which would mean merely ‘reliance,’ or ‘dependency,’ or even ‘confidence,’ for there should also be a significant measure of ‘belief.’ Real trust, confidence, and reliance*

can only be placed in someone who is believed to have the qualities attributed to such a person.”

- *When we actively believe in God it automatically results in us being filled with all joy and peace.*
- *A very wonderful and sweet presence of Christ fills our soul when we are conscious of God’s faithfulness by believing in Who He is and all He has done for us.*

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

- *Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted directly three times in the New Testament, Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38.*
- *The theme of our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ should be, “But the just shall live by his faith.” What a wonderful and exciting way to live—to completely and unreservedly put our confidence in Him and all that He has done, all that He is doing, and all that He will do in the future!*

James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” – The blessedness of believing is that when we fall into various trials, we are able to count it all joy, because we count “Him faithful who promised.” (Hebrews 11:11).*
- *The source of our joy is not the trials themselves or the hardships we may face, but the confidence we have in God that the testing of our faith will result in us being “perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*
- *Suffering by itself is never good, but as we turn to God in the midst of our sufferings and difficulties, He redeems our circumstances to bring forth a wonderful work in our hearts and lives for His glory.*
- *The blessedness of believing is being able to trust God with full assurance, even when we face dark and difficult circumstances.*
- *Jesus is the best example of how to walk in the blessedness of believing. Although He is the Son of God, He came to the earth as the Son of Man to live*

the same way we do. He overcame all the suffering He had to face. “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2, NKJV).

- *One of the great blessings of believing is to live a life free from anxious thoughts and a life that is totally surrendered to the will of God. “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6, NKJV).*

Mark 4:35–41 (NKJV)

³⁵On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.”

³⁶Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

³⁸But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

³⁹Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”

⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

³⁵On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.”

- *“Let us cross over to the other side.” – God has a plan for our lives that He intends to fulfill—if we are willing to trust and obey Him no matter what we may face, or where that plan may take us, no matter what we will make it to the other side.*

³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

- *The storm arose even though the disciples had been fully obeying Jesus’ commands and were travelling to the place Jesus had set for them.*
- *Jesus never promised we would have a storm-free life. “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).*
- *Jesus, in fact, assured us that there would be times when we would face great storms. However, He promised we could have peace and inner joy through the storms, if we remember that He has overcome the world and He is the resurrected Saviour.*

- *There are many reasons we can experience trials, suffering, illnesses, and setbacks in life.*
- *Sometimes it can be a consequence of our own wrong choices and self-will.*
- *However, we see many examples in the Bible where godly men and women who were following God's leading experienced trials and suffering, although they were being led by the Spirit.*

³⁸But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

- *"But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow" – The stern is the place from which one steers the boat.*
- *There may be times we feel God is not with us or life is out of control. We need to remember that He is the One who is steering our boat.*

"But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow"

- *The Greek word for "asleep" means literally "to lie down to rest" and therefore by implication means to fall asleep.*
- *The Greek word for "pillow" means "something for the head," and could be seen as a picture of Jesus' mind completely resting in the will of His Father.*
- *What was Jesus' secret that He could peacefully lie in the back of the boat, even sleeping while the storm raged about Him battering the boat?*
- *In the place of prayer Jesus had learned the blessedness of believing so that He was completely confident in following the will of His Father and the leading of the Holy Spirit, "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." (Mark 1:35, NKJV).*
- *It is often in the middle of a trial that Christians try to learn to trust God, something they should have been cultivating daily in prayer, reading the Word, and in fellowship. Early each morning Jesus spent time waiting on God and preparing by cultivating trust and confidence in His Father through prayer.*
- *Spending time in God's presence in prayer and meditating on His Word is where our faith and confidence in God grows, so we can experience the blessedness of believing when we face the storms of life.*

- *Spending time worshiping God and praying in tongues can be marvelously uplifting and faith building. “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20, NKJV).*
- *The response of the disciples to Jesus resting in the midst of the storm is very interesting, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”*
- *Looking at the Scripture, we can grasp why the disciples questioned if Jesus cared for them.*
- *It was not that Jesus was fast asleep, the storm arose, and He was unaware of it. It was in the midst of the storm that Jesus stretched out in the back of the boat, laid His head on a pillow, and went to sleep.*
- *As Jesus was lying down in the back of the boat with His head resting on a pillow, in the midst of the storm, He was actually acting out a parable.*
- *Jesus was showing them how they need to come to a place of fully trusting God even in the most difficult and chaotic circumstances.*
- *Another profound truth seen in Jesus going to sleep during the storm is that sleep is meant to refresh and unravel the cares of this life.*
- *The Scriptures do not say simply that Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat, but that His head was resting comfortably on a pillow.*
- *We need to come to such a place of rest and confidence in God that no matter how great the storms around us, we don’t need to have a storm within us and that is the blessedness of believing.*

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

³You will keep him in perfect peace (shalom shalom), Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

- *The Hebrew word translated as mind in Isaiah 26:3 actually means, “something that is made into a shape; pottery, something that is shaped by a potter; imagination.”*
- *The Hebrew word translated as “stayed” in Isaiah 26:3 means, “to support, to sustain, to be unflinching, to be firm.”*
- *Our mind and imagination need to be shaped and conformed to reflect the correct image of God so we can fully rely on Him.*
- *The disciples misunderstood what Jesus was trying to teach them by His example of resting in the midst of the storm, “Teacher, do You not care that*

we are perishing?”

- *The disciples thought Jesus’ apparent inaction reflected a lack of care and concern for their well-being.*
- *Jesus was trying to teach them, by His example, to have total confidence in the perfect love and power of the Father.*
- *One of the things that can cause us to experience torment as we go through a time of suffering is when we feel God is distant or uncaring. In fact, He is always with us and intimately involved in every detail of our lives. “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5, NKJV).*

³⁹Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

- *The Greek word for “peace” means “silence, muteness, involuntary stillness, inability to speak rather than a voluntary refusal to speak.”*
- *The Greek word for “be still” means “to muzzle.”*
- *The Greek word for “calm” means “tranquility.”*
- *Jesus stood up against the storm, rebuked the wind and the sea, so it was forced into silence and tranquility resulted.*
- *This parable also teaches us how to deal with the inner turmoil that can arise in our hearts.*
- *We are to stand up against the storms within and silence them, whether they are caused by spiritual attacks of the enemy (the winds) or the circumstances of life (the seas).*

⁴⁰But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”

- *Jesus did not rebuke them because they did not have faith to silence the storm without, but because they did not believe in the goodness of God and failed to silence the storm within.*
- *Jesus was not teaching them that they should have enough faith to quiet the winds and the sea every time external circumstances become difficult.*
- *Jesus was teaching them that they should cultivate such a faith and confidence in God that they could have peace within their own hearts independent of the*

external circumstances.

- *We cannot always change our circumstances, but we can change our response to our circumstances.*
- *The apostles eventually learned to be men of great faith and to walk with God in total peace, through whatever circumstances they faced.*
- *Jesus didn't teach them they could quiet every external storm.*
- *Jesus taught them they could trust God so fully that they never needed to fear the storms of life.*
- *We will all face raging storms in our lives from time to time. However, each one of us needs to believe we're going to "the other side of the lake," and God's perfect will for our lives will be fulfilled if we simply believe and obey. Neither man nor our circumstances can thwart God's plan if we are willing to fully trust Him and obey.*

⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

- *After the disciples witnessed the power of Jesus Christ to calm the storm they were no longer filled with anxiety about the circumstances of life. Instead, they were filled with a fearful awe that they were witnessing the reality of God—the fear of the Lord filled their hearts.*
- **"Where is the man who fears the Lord? God will teach him how to choose the best. He shall live within God's circle of blessing." (Psalm 25:12-13, *The Living Bible*).**

Romans 8:33–37 (NKJV)

³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

- *These last verses of Romans 8 seem to paint a paradoxical picture. On one hand it affirms that we are "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" and "nothing can separate us from the love of Christ." On the other hand it says,*

“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

- ***The blessedness of believing is not to need all the answers, but to trust fully in God even as Job stated, “I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” (Job 42:2, NKJV).***
- ***As we face the different experiences of life we need to answer two questions:***
 - ***Is our faith in Christ worth dying for?***
 - ***Is our faith in Christ worth living for?***
- ***The answer is found in the blessedness in believing, because we are “more than conquerors through Him who loved us”***
- ***We can be free from fear and anxiety and live a life filled with unquenchable joy, peace, and hope.***