

14. Learning the Results of Justification

In our last topic, we saw how to help our physical and spiritual children understand how Abraham showed his faith. We saw that Abraham showed his faith in the promises of God in many different ways. In the same way, we want to help our children learn to show their faith in the Lord in many different ways as we show them how to serve the Lord. In our topic today, we are going to learn the results of justification.

In Romans 5:1-2, we read, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” We have seen in other topics that to be justified means to be made righteous in the sight of God because of the fact that our sins were placed on Christ and the righteousness of Christ was placed on us. In this chapter, we see that the first result of being justified is that we have peace with God.

Our condition before we placed our faith in Christ is described in Ephesians 2:2-3 where we read, “In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” Because we were following Satan, we were at enmity with God and were facing judgment. That was totally changed at the moment of salvation. Hebrews 4:15-16 tells us the results of this peace with God when it says, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Peace with God means that we can now come boldly to God because we have access to the Father through Christ. We are also able to rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Hope is the confident assurance that we will one day be with the Lord. However, we can also rejoice and experience the glory of God in our lives in the present. Romans 5:3-5 says, “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Tribulations are the difficult times that we go through in our lives. Here, we see that we can have a good outlook and be filled with joy even when we are going through difficult times, because God is using those difficult things that we face in our lives to develop godly strength in our lives.

We see that difficult times develop perseverance. Perseverance is the ability to endure and stand firm even when we are going through very difficult times. James 1:2-3 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” This in turn develops godly character in our lives. This same word is used in Philippians 2:22 where Paul describes Timothy by saying, “But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.” The result of developing perseverance and godly character is that we have a confident hope as we look toward the future.

We are also reminded that the hope that God gives us does not disappoint. Instead, our hope is based on the fact that God has poured out His love into our hearts by giving us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us first to know the love of God and then to show the love of God. 1 John 4:18-19 says, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” In these verses, we see that as we grow to know the love of God, His love removes the fear in our lives. This makes it possible for us to respond to His love by loving Him.

Then, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to show the love of God to others. In John 13:34-35, Christ said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” We cannot carry out this new commandment in our own strength. However, Romans 6:16 says, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?” At all times that we are yielding our human spirit to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to carry out the new commandment. We are able to show the love of God to others because God has given us the Holy Spirit to have the power to show that love in our lives.

This is further explained in Romans 5:6-8 where we read, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” God showed His love to us when we were yet without strength. At that time, we had no desire to love as God loves and no power to love as God loves. That is why God sent Christ to die for the ungodly.

The word that is translated “without strength” means *to be feeble and totally helpless*. It was at that very time that God showed His love to us by sending Christ to die for our sins. Most people would not even consider dying for a righteous man. Very few would ever consider dying for a good man. In contrast, God showed His love for us by sending Christ to die for us at the time when we were sinners and spiritually dead. 1 Peter 3:18 says, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” Christ suffered and died for us when we were unjust. Ephesians 2:1 says, “And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” God sent Christ to die for our sins when we were spiritually dead. He wanted to show His love for us by making it possible for us to receive spiritual life.

As a result of what Christ did for us, Romans 5:9-11 says, “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” In these verses, we see several things that happened that showed the love of God for us. We want to help our children clearly

understand each of these things.

First, we see that we were justified by the blood of Christ. The word “justified” means *to declare us righteous*. Romans 8:1 says, “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Here, we see that justification means we have been pardoned from our sins and no longer face judgment for them. We saw in the previous topics from Romans 4 that the righteousness of Christ was put to our account. As a result, we are able to stand before God with the righteousness of Christ because He paid for our sin with His blood.

Second, we see that we shall be saved from wrath through Christ. Wrath speaks of the vengeance of God against sin. Ephesians 5:6 says, “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” Here, we see that the wrath of God will come on all those who continue to live in disobedience. John 3:36 says, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” Here, we see that we were facing the wrath of God against sin until the moment we placed our faith in Christ. At that moment, we received everlasting life.

Third, we see that we have been reconciled to God through the death of His Son. To “reconcile” means *to be returned to favor with God*. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 says, “Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.” We have been brought back into favor with God through the sacrifice of Christ as the payment for our sins. In addition, we see that God has now given each of us the privilege of sharing with others how they also can be reconciled to God.

Fourth, we see that we are saved by the life of Christ. Romans 8:37-39 says, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” No created thing can ever separate us from the love of God which we have received through Jesus Christ our Lord. We want to help our physical and spiritual children gain a full understanding of what this means to them in their lives so that they can help others gain this same understanding. We want to help them realize that we can rejoice in God because of what He has done for us through Christ. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand the results of justification.