

All right let's go ahead and open up our Bibles to Isaiah chapter 32 and hope you can join us today for our lunch immediately following the service. And then we'll have an afterglow time after that where we just have a time of prayer and ministering to one another. So Isaiah 32, let's pray.

Lord. We do pray that your spirit would illuminate our minds and teach us the things we need to know concerning your word and Lord, that we would be those kind of people that just meditate on your word day and night, that allow your spirit to bring alive. The word of God to us in a supernatural way, Lord, not just natural memory or intelligence, but the supernatural mind of Christ and Lord, that

every one of us can experience those. Times of hearing from you over and over throughout the day, Lord, as we allow your spirit to have his way. And so we just thank you that you do that with us every day, and we wanna learn to walk in that more and more. So as we open your word, just teach us these truths we pray in Jesus' name, amen.

The title of my sermon today from Isaiah 32 is the Peaceable Work of Righteousness, and we've been in Isaiah 32 now for three weeks and we're gonna really concentrate more on the last few verses versus 16 through 20 and do somewhat of a topical study on righteousness and the piece that comes from that.

But this chapter has really, is really important in that just in the historical context of understanding what was happening at the time. This was written 700 years before Christ Isaiah writing these words in a time in the nation of Judah, where it was very tense. It was, they were under a lot of stress, the.

World dominating empire of a Syria was defeating nation after nation. And Judah was next on the menu for asy. And so there was a real threat hanging over the people of Judah. And unfortunately many of the leaders were, rather than calling upon the Lord, they were looking. For fleshly natural solutions looking to align themselves with the nation of Egypt.

That was another strong nation, and the Lord was telling them, don't do that. You need to call upon me and not depend on Egypt for military strength. And it, we know how it all turned out when they did call upon the Lord and the Lord defeated the Assyrian army that was surrounding Judah and killed 185,000 soldiers in one night.

The things that God can do that we could never do in the natural right. And isn't that what the Christian life is all about, learning. To let God have his way instead of us trying to solve our own problems. And as we sang, I surrender all man that that's a message the Lord is driving us to over and over again.

You need to surrender this to me. You need to turn this over to me and learn to walk in faith and that's what walking in faith is giving things to God. Reading his word and letting it come alive to you and learning through the pages of scripture how to walk in faith. And so the, so many lessons we're learning from Isaiah 32 and.

As Isaiah is ministering to the nation of Judah at this time often he would prophesy of a future, times of peace and where the Messiah would reign over all of the wicked nations and that he would reign there in, in Jerusalem. And this gave God's people hope that ultimately, The Lord is going to take control of this world.

That's what we call the millennial kingdom, the thousand year reign. Often we see this referred to in Isaiah, just again, to give God's people hope. It's important we have hope. We remember

who's in control, even though it seems like circumstances around us are in control, that the wicked have are in a place of strength.

As God's people were to remember. No, God sits on the throne. God's in control. I turn my problems over to him. I'm just interested in doing his will. In the midst of this stress that Judah was under, the Lord gave this prophecy through Isaiah of this coming reign of righteousness. And Isaiah 32 verse one, he says, behold, a king will reign in righteousness and princess will rule the justice.

And the Lord goes on to speak of. This time in history in the future where things would be different in ju. And I believe that the Lord is speaking here of of the church age where there would be this inner work where people would be walking in righteousness, people would be walking in God's wisdom.

And so we've covered this in the last few weeks, so I'm not gonna spend a lot of time in, in the first section of Isaiah 32. But the point I wanted to bring us to is verse 15 of Isaiah 32, where it says, until, The spirit is poured upon us from on high. So this, you can see that God is working in the nation of Israel.

To bring people to a point of humility and a place of faith where they could receive the power of the spirit. And we talk about that the last couple weeks are conditions for walking and the power of the Holy Spirit. That the condition really of humility, of recognizing we don't have what it takes.

We don't have the righteousness in ourselves, but faith that Christ has died and risen again, and that he has provided. A means for us to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. So those are the conditions that the Lord desires us to walk in and to walk in the power of His spirit. And when a person is walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, you have what Galatians five talks about, the fruit of the spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, the nine fruits of the spirit.

The Lord wants us to have in our lives. But if we are examining our lives and seeing that we're not really experiencing those things, we're not really experiencing love and joy and peace and patience. We have to stop and question and say, Lord, what's going on in my heart, in my life that I don't have those things.

I seem to have more depression and anxiety and anger, and I lack self-control. And so this is, The goal of Christians that we're learning to walk in the spirit and less in the flesh. So we've talked about that positioning ourselves to where the Holy Spirit can be poured out upon. So the Bible talks about three things related to our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Don't resist the spirit, don't quench the spirit. And what's the third? Grieve the spirit. Thank you. Cause I literally just forgot it. So thank you. Don't grieve, quench or resist the spirit. So there are certainly behaviors and ways we think that we can be out of sync with the spirit. We're grieving him.

He's sad he's not pleased with where we're walking right now and you. Sense that can't you as a believer, Yeah I just sense that inner grieving of the spirit, I shouldn't have said that. I shouldn't have let my thoughts go into that place. I shouldn't have done that. Or a quenching of the spirit where God's wanting to move in a certain way.

And it's kinda like you're throwing fire a wet blanket over that fire. The Lord's saying, Hey, no, let my spirit move. Let that fire burn. And then of course, resisting the spirit where we can

sense the Lord wanting to do something and we're just resisting it. So we wanna have a proper relationship with the Lord, with the Holy Spirit.

So that we can then flow in God's will and God's purpose. He has a purpose and a will for all of us. So the worst feeling I think in the world is to have that sense of purposelessness, right? Where there, you just don't know what you're here, what am I supposed to be doing with my life?

Why am I here? But for a Christian, we, we shouldn't. Feel that way, we shouldn't remain in that place. I think we all battle with it from time to time, but then to just say, Lord, I need to hear your voice. I need to know what my calling is. And walk in that calling and then as you learn to walk in the power of the spirit.

You can see the god's will fulfilled in your life. And so we talked a lot about that the last few weeks in verse 15 of Isaiah 32, that how the spirit, he wants to be poured out upon us from on high well. Today I wanna focus more on verses 16 through 20 and talk about the righteousness of God. And let's go ahead and read 16 through 20 and then we'll talk about it and also move to some other verses that relate to the same topic of righteousness and peace.

Isaiah 32 16, then Justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secured dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Though hail comes down on the forest and the city has brought low in humiliation. Blessed are you who? So beside all waters who send out freely the feet of the ox and the donkey. So that last verse is just talking about which the people at that time would relate to like a farmer who has a prosperous farm.

And they're sewing by water, so their crops have plenty of water and their animals are healthy. And of course often the scripture when it's talking to us about our lives and the. The spiritual prosperity that the Lord wants to bring into our lives. He'll speak in terms of that every day kinda language.

If you're a farmer, he'll speak to you in that kinda language. Going back to verse 16, if you'll notice this work of righteousness. In verse 17, the work of righteousness will be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever. And then the same truth is spoken again in verse 18.

My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secured dwellings and a quiet resting places. And I really believe this is talking about the church age, talking to the nation of Israel to say, look, you're in anxiety now because you're surrounded by the nation of Syria. You don't know what the future holds, but I wanna bring you to all of my people, to a place where they can walk in righteousness and peace no matter what circumstances are happening around them.

And God is saying, I'm going to do that in this new covenant that I'm bringing. Where it'll be that inner work of the Holy Spirit in every believer and that there will, my people will be walking in righteousness and they will be walking in peace. And don't we all want that? We want that that peace, that quietness, that assurance in our lives, and to have that quiet, resting place.

In our spirit, in our souls, regardless of what's going on around us. If you notice verse 19, it's talking about hail coming down in the forest and the city is brought low in humiliation. So we know this isn't talking about heaven, it's not talking about the millennial rain where there won't be hail and humiliation.

It's talking I believe about. Our lives now, where even though we do have trials, we do have hail coming down. We, if you ever get caught in a hail storm that's a pretty scary thing, right? And or have been brought low in humiliation in your life through whatever you're some of us can relate to that.

Or maybe you're you're laid off a job and different things that happen in our lives. It, there's that sense of humiliation Lord, why are you letting me go through this? So the point here is you can see that even though there are trials in our life, there is hail, there is humiliation.

We can still walk in righteousness and have that quietness, that peace in our hearts. The, that whole. Epidemic of anxiety in our country right now. There's reasons for that, right? There's reasons, because to walk in. God's peace and power and joy. There are conditions for it.

We've been talking about that so much. Some think if I just accept Jesus and ask him to be my savior, then all my problems are solved and I'll just be happy from then on. And sometimes that's how evangelists will present the gospel. And that's not all the truth, right?

Because they're, Jesus. If you follow me, there will be suffering. There will be trials and tribulation, but be a good cheer. I've overcome the world, so we wanna always preach the full gospel, that yes, there's an inner peace and an inner righteousness the Lord wants to give us, but it's, it doesn't mean we're gonna be free from trials.

So the condition of walking in God's peace. Is learning from his word how to do that. And one, one way I think to look at it is, If we we all wanna walk in peace. We wanna live in peace. No matter what's happening in our life, what trial, that we can just turn over to the Lord and surrender it to him and have that sense that God's in control.

I'm at peace. I'm not gonna have anxiety and ruling my life, but you have to back up. Okay. What? What is it that's gonna make me a person of peace? And it's really the scripture's telling us it's the work of righteousness. He said, verse 17, the work of righteousness will be peace. So it's a kind of if then type of thing, right?

It's if you have righteousness, then you will have peace. So how do we have righteousness is the question. As Christians, we believe, We're justified by faith. We have righteous standing before God, but we also learn then to walk in God's righteousness by faith. And if you understand those two concepts of we're justified by faith before God, and we're sanctified by faith before God, that we can walk in his righteousness.

What I mean, what is righteousness? It's really, it's just doing the right thing. It's doing God's will. It's not being overcome by sin. So if we want to have peace, we have to have righteousness. But if we wanna have righteousness, how do we have righteousness in our life? It's through faith. And that's what I want to drill down into a little further this morning is to really understand that whole relationship.

Between righteousness and peace and faith and righteousness and peace. Now, in Matthew chapter five, it talks about blessed it are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. And that's a very important scripture because if you don't have a hunger and thirst for righteousness, There's something wrong in your heart, like as a born again Christian, this is one of the real radical changes God makes in us, right?

That before we were saved, before we came to know Christ, We didn't hunger and thirst for righteous. We hungered and thirsted for our, our just fulfilling our own desires, our own will. And one of the great changes that the Lord makes when we surrender our life to Christ is he

puts this new nature and is this new heart where all of a sudden we have this supernatural desire for righteousness.

And so in Matthew chapter five. Verse six, it says, blessed it are tho those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. So that section of Matthew we call it the be attitudes, a Sermon on the Mount where is really an important section of scripture because Jesus is really his first sermon in the first gospel.

Which I think is significant and he starts out that section saying, blessed it are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

And you notice in each one of those, Statements. He's talking really about a weak person a person who's in need. And Jesus is basically saying you're blessed if spiritually you understand your need. Because if you have pride and look, I don't need anybody. I don't need anything. I can make it through life on my own, in my own strength and wisdom.

The Lord says you're not blessed cuz you're not in a position now. Where I can open up the whole kingdom of God to you. You're not in a place where I can comfort you and reveal myself to you. Your pride has to be broken and to recognize you are poor in spirit. So it's very important is we wanna walk in the peace of the Lord.

That we check our heart and see that we're in a place of need be. We recognize that place of need before the Lord every day that we're poor in spirit, that we're mourning over our sin and our weakness, that we're meek before the Lord, and that meek just means that you're. They, they say it's like a horse that has been broken and that is easily led versus a horse that's unbroken a meek horse would be one that has been trained, will obey its owner, and that's how we to be before the Lord.

Lord, where do you want me to go? What do you want me to do? I'm not fighting against the Lord. And then, Again, the, bless her, they hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. So the first thing we have to examine our heart, say M, is that really a huge part of my life, that every day I'm saying, Lord, I want your righteousness.

I hunger for it. I don't have it within myself. Just he uses the example of food and water, hunger and thirst horizons, just like in the natural. I have to go outside of myself to feed myself, right? I have to get food, I have to get water. And it's the same way spiritually. I have to look outside of myself.

Lord, you're the my provider of spiritual bread and spiritual water, and I'm hungry for that. That's the righteousness I wanna learn to walk in. So then we go over to Romans one 16 talking about righteousness. Romans one 16. I dunno if you guys will be able to keep up with me today, but I didn't tell them what scriptures I'm doing so Romans one 16 says, for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Now notice this, for in it or in the good news of Christ, the righteousness of God is revealed. How? From faith to faith, just as is written, the just shall live by faith. So this is such an important verse. I hope you have it memorized because. Isaiah, or I'm sorry, Romans 1, 16 17. It's really an introduction to the book of Romans.

It's telling you where Paul is gonna go to in great detail and the rest of Romans, and it's about walking in faith. With Christ and learning to feed on his righteousness. Now notice it says verse

17, for the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. So sometimes when you think of the Christian life I accepted Jesus and I have righteousness before God and end of story, I'm good.

And it's that's really not what this is saying. This is saying you're going from faith to faith, or you're living by faith. So each challenge in your life, it's a faith opportunity, right? The next. Challenge that comes your way. The next person who problem person that comes in your life or your spouse is mad at you or your kids are upset with you, whatever.

Your boss is mad at you, your the car troubles everyone. It's Lord, if I'm gonna walk in peace, I'm gonna have to give every one of these situations to you cuz they keep coming at me. And I'm just gonna, Lord, I just give this new situation to you, this person, this problem, this challenge. I'm walking in faith.

I'm going from faith to faith. And a lot of times we're so shocked when trials come like Jesus said, In this world, you will have tribulation, but be a good cheer. I've overcome the world. I want you to overcome these problems. I want you to be able to overcome the difficulties by trusting me. See, we were never created to bear the burdens that most of this bear.

That's why there is such an epidemic of anxiety in this world cuz so many have rejected God. And then they were never created to bear the burdens that they're bearing. So you take drugs, you take alcohol. It's this thing where in our culture, many cultures you had a hard day.

Come home, have that drink of alcohol to bring peace, to bring joy to bring. Relaxation. And I think that's a trap, now I'm not saying Bible doesn't say that alcohol is completely forbidden for Christians. Now getting drunk certainly is getting high, but I think that the use of alcohol as a crutch to I just need to relax.

I need to get peace. I need to get some joy from this. I think that's where the trap we've fall into, because we wanna be. Looking to the Lord for those things, right? To say, look, I'm just gonna go out and take a walk and spend time with the Lord instead of having that drink, and find, hear the voice, Lord, what are you, Lord, the burdens that I'm bearing this weight, that I'm feeling, this pressure and these demands.

Lord, I'm just giving. I'm just gonna give them to you, Lord, one by one as they come to mind. And Holy Spirit help me to do that. And that's what the just shall live by faith. They go from faith to faith. We're not depending. On some worldly remedy, or and of course many are on anxiety medications and if you're on that I'm not condemning you for that at all.

I'm just, but of course you want, you would love to get off of that, right? Nobody wants to live that way. And I, and again it's us examining our hearts and saying, Lord, am I really walking in faith in your righteousness? Going from faith to faith, and then the end result of that is going to be peace.

And as we go on in Romans, we can just do a quick review of Romans related to righteousness, which we can walk in God's righteousness by faith and then have peace. But we have to understand these truths. So the Romans three 10. Romans three 10 says There is none righteous. No, not one.

There is none Who understands? There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside and I could go on, but this is Paul Lane, the case of the sinfulness of the human race and the need for Christ, the need to walk in faith. This really relates back to blessed. Are they hunger and thirst for righteousness, for when we realize in ourselves we have no righteousness.

There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands. So we don't have God's righteousness in us, in ourselves. Outside of Christ and we don't have God's wisdom. We don't understand how to walk with God. We don't even desire to seek God. When you realize that about yourself, it's actually a place of freedom to where you say, oh, God doesn't expect me to produce desire for him, or or understanding of him or he doesn't expect me to produce righteousness.

I just come before him in faith and say, Lord. You have it, pour it into me, cleanse me of my sin, pour that righteousness into me. So a very important concept to understand there is none righteous. No, not one. But then as you continue on in Romans chapter three, jump down to verse 21. This is a very key verse, and it's a turning point in the book of Romans.

Romans 3 21, he says, but now the righteousness of God, apart from the law is revealed being witnessed by the law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. This is a turning point in the sense that Paul is saying if you notice in the first part of 21, he says, but now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed.

He's saying there's a change now in the way we relate to God. We used to relate to him through the law, and now we're relating to him. Through faith in Jesus Christ and now, and he's saying, Hey, this is not something I'm making up. Remember Paul is presenting this gospel to the first century world, and he's saying, I, I'm not making this up.

It was witnessed by the law and the prophets. It's written in the Old Testament and we'll get into chapter four of Romans that Abraham walked by faith. So very key for us to understand and it's, and again, it's freedom from carrying the burdens ourself of trying to live a righteous life. When we realize, oh no, the righteousness of God now comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

And then that's what it says to all and on all. Who believe. So he has to, he keeps emphasizing faith believe, faith believes he just repeats it over and over. And so think about that the righteousness of God is and if you're a believer in Jesus Christ this morning, it God's righteousness through Christ is to you and it's on you.

What does that mean? You may have heard this before, where the moment you accept Jesus as your savior, it's like the gavel in heaven says not guilty. You're justified before God. All your sins are thrown into the sea of forgetfulness, and God looks at you as perfectly holy. Who wouldn't want that, right?

Wow. Thank you, God. And but then not now. We still have to live in this world. Sometimes I think it'd be better like, Lord, when I got saved, why don't you just take me to heaven right away? He's no I got work for you to do here. So now we need to learn to walk with the Lord in righteousness.

So it's a day by day growth. It's learning to walk in his righteousness and overcome sin. And see God's will. Fulfilled in our lives. Those things aren't automatic. You gotta fight for it. You gotta study for it. You gotta believe for it. You gotta say, Lord I wanna walk in your righteousness. And there's all these forces array against me, the world to flesh the devil, but we are overcomers, right?

So that's the attitude you gotta get. So not only do I stand righteous before God it's been God's righteousness has been given to me as a free gift, and I'm declared not guilty in heaven,

but it's the righteousness is also upon me to walk daily in his righteousness and talk about freedom.

See, earlier in my Christian life, I used to really struggle with this. I was thinking it was about my diligence and my effort and my ex zeal and the amount of time I put in study. And every time I would sin or. Stumble. I'd be like, man, I just gotta double up my efforts. Cuz I, obviously, I wouldn't have sinned if I was a more zealous Christian.

So I'd go to the altar at this church. They'd have altar calls that I used to go to rededicate my life. Okay, this time it's gonna be different. God, I'm going all out for you now. I'm gonna get up at four in the morning and pray for three hours. And then I'd oversleep the next day and be like, oh, God's so disappointed with me.

I'm such a failure. It was just a cycle of. Me striving and thinking God's disappointed with me. And that's just a lie. That's not what the scripture teaches. He already knows you don't have any righteousness. So when I see, when I fall into sin, you're like, oh, Lord I somehow missed you. I somehow missed exercising faith in your righteousness.

That's why I sin and help me not to do that again. Cleanse me of the sin that I just committed, but Lord, , let's help me to learn to be an overcomer Holy Spirit. Teach me how to walk in faith because your righteousness is available to me as a free gift. You know what? It's, can you see the difference in thinking?

Rather than me promising God, I'm gonna do better in my strength? I've just Lord, I missed you. Somehow I failed. And I know it must be. I didn't recognize the righteousness that's available to be available to me by faith to overcome sin. And so we're so many of us we're carrying around this burden of sin and being defeated by sin and anxiety and you're carrying all this stuff and the lord's I, no, I have a way out for that.

No wonder you have, you don't have peace, you could just come up to today and say, pastor Rick, you just pray for me that I would have peace and like I'm gonna wave a magic wand over you. And I'm not mocking praying for people, but sometimes we misunderstand it like I'm just, you're just gonna be delivered like instantly.

And you're gonna have peace the rest of your life. That's not the way it works. Now, I. My prayer may be used by God to help you to learn to walk in these truths we're talking about. But if you walk outta here and you don't understand how to walk in righteousness to faith, you're just gonna fall right back in into sin.

Now, Paul, what Paul would do, if you notice the prayers of Paul, four or five prayers through the epistles, they have this same theme. And he would pray, Lord we have the Ephesians prayer written in our prayer room, and it's, Lord, would you open the eyes of their heart that they might understand the exceeding greatness of your power that's available to us?

Who believe that those kinds of prayers like Paul's I'm seeing this. I'm walking in God's righteousness by faith. And and yet I can see these folks aren't seeing it quite yet. And Lord, I pray you would open their eyes so we can contribute to one another's growths by praying for one another.

But certainly you should be praying that for yourself. Lord, open my eyes. I wanna see these things. I'm not, I haven't been walking in faith, I haven't been walking righteousness. I don't have your peace. See that peace is supposed to be, that lack of peace is supposed to be. A signal, a red flag that something's wrong in your heart, in your mind, that you're not walking in these truths and they're actually very simple.



You don't have to be a theologian. You just have to. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate some of these truths we're sharing this morning. And again they are repeated over and over in different ways. It's the same core truth. His righteousness is a gift to us every day. And we walk in it by faith.

So then verse Oh man, I gotta spend a little more time on verse 21, though. It's so good. But the so the righteousness of God, apart from the law is revealed. So notice it wasn't revealed fully before, but now the righteousness of God, apart from the law, or in other words, apart from self effort this is why it's called good news.

The righteousness of God, apart from the law is revealed. Now, Paul saying everything's changed world. If you want to hear this, the good news. You don't have to strive in the law for righteousness, which the law never was intended to make us righteousness. It was just to show us we weren't righteous and to humble us and to tourist Christ, but.

He says, the righteousness of God apart from the law, it's been revealed and it's witnessed in the Old Testament, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ. So I'm exercising faith in the person of Christ. What he did on that cross, he died, he rose. I died with him. I rose with him. That's where if you will live in that zone of faith of the cross, this is where you're gonna find victory and power and peace.

So it's too all and it's on all who believe. Okay, so then let's go to chapter four of Romans and see now Paul, he's laid this case to saying, Hey, you can't be righteous on your own. Everybody sinned. The only way you can have righteousness is through faith in Christ. And now he's gonna spend the whole next chapter diving deep into the whole subject of faith.

And he's gonna just to prove it's not something he's making up. He's gonna go back to Genesis, the very beginning and say, let's talk about Abraham. And let's start in Romans one, Romans four, verse one. What then shall we say that Abraham, our father, has found, according to the flesh, for if Abraham was justified by work, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

For what does the scripture say? Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Now, to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace, but is debt, but to him who does not work but believes on him. Who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. So again, earlier in my Christian life, I was working, I was striving to be godly.

I I had that change of heart. I did hunger and thirst for righteousness. I just didn't know how to tap into his free gift of righteousness. So I was frustrated, I was defeated, I was discouraged, often depressed. Oh yeah, all those. D words depressed, I dunno, but discouraged down why do they all start with D?

But preachers like that some sometimes, but but but to him who does not work but believes. Isn't that beautiful? So it's not about my efforts, it's about my faith in his work, not in my work. So his, this person, their faith is accounted as righteousness. And then let's drop down to verse 13.

I'd love to go through the whole chapter. We don't have time. Then verse 13 of Romans four for the promise that he would be heir of the world was not to Abraham or his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. See, that's a key word right there. If you want righteousness in your life, which will then produce.

F Peace. If you want righteousness, it's gonna come through faith. Through the righteousness of faith. And people might say faith what is that? You're just leaving something you can't see. How is that gonna bring you righteousness? Faith is just recognizing what God's already done and tapping into that and say, yeah, I believe you died on the cross.

To give me eternal life. I believe you died on the cross and you rose again to give me the very life of Christ that I might walk in his righteousness every day. So the faith is powerful. It's it that he was justified through the righteousness of faith. And Verse 16. Therefore, it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed.

So I love that verse because, If my relationship with God is based on faith if my receiving righteousness is based on faith and grace just means it's a gift. He's just giving it to me. I don't deserve it. I'm just saying. I recognize the work you've done on the cross. Pour out your spirit upon me.

Pour out your righteousness upon me. Notice what it says because it's according to faith. Verse 16. It's sure to all the seed. It's a sure thing for anybody all cuz anybody can believe. You might say, I'm just not a very religious person. I'm not, I've never been the righteous person.

And it's what? What does that matter? It's about not how righteous you've been, it's about how willing you are to believe what God has provided in Christ. So it's sure to all the seed. Yeah, we gotta move on. Let's go on to verse or chapter five of Romans. And you'll notice this pattern of faith and righteousness of verse one, of chapter five.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God. There it is, through our Lord Jesus Christ. So do you see the link between faith and peace? 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.

So not only are we justified through faith declared not guilty, but now we have daily access by faith into God's, into this grace in which we stand, so that we're living in his grace through faith, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory and tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.

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 is given to us. So we see this whole idea of starting out with God by faith, walking with God, by faith. And as the tribulations and the trials come to our, into our life, they actually can produce a person of character because you're, because you have God's power.

In your life, you're able to persevere with patients through the difficulties that come to us all. And notice what it says, how the Holy Spirit has been poured out into our hearts. Now, that's reminds us of verse 15, of Isaiah 32, right? That how this, the spirit is poured from on high into our lives.

So let's jump to Verse chapter six of Romans and verse 12,

Romans six 12. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies that you should obey it in its lust, and do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourself to God as being alive from the dead and you're members of instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you where you are not under law, but under grace, and I know this is a lot of scripture for a Sunday morning, but just ask the

Holy Spirit to speak to you because it's a lot to digest, but it's all basically the same core truth.

Paul, just giving some more detail. And reminding us of where the victory comes. It's through the cross that we don't let sin reign in our bodies, but we present ourselves to God as as our members for righteousness and not unrighteousness. As you would think, this goes without saying as a Christian, we're called to live a righteous life, a holy life that we're not to love the world or the things in the world, and so we're trying to deal with the sin that we see in our lives.

But Paul is saying, look, the way you do it, it's through faith and it's and you're. Recognizing what God's done on the cross, and you're just now presenting yourselves before God and saying, Lord, here I am. I don't want to do the less full sinful things I've done in the past. I wanna present myself to you as someone who's alive from the dead.

And again, so you're thinking about the cross. You're thinking about faith in what Christ has done, and so that sin will not have dominion over you. For you are not under law, but under grace. So again, it's that truth. It's not about me trying under the law, trying harder. It's about me receiving his grace to overcome a sin.

And then Romans eight, four. Let's jump over to Romans eight, four. We're talking about walking in righteousness so we can have peace in our life, so we can please God. And Romans eight.

Four says that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. So that righteous requirement of the law some can get confused about the law and say yeah, we're not under the law. We can just we're under grace.

We can do whatever we want. And that's, and Paul addresses that in Romans several different times. He just says, no, you're misunderstanding me. But. Whenever you teach Grace, people can then jump to that conclusion that, oh, it doesn't matter. We can just send it up. And no, Paul's not saying that.

He's saying there is a righteous requirement of the law. The law originally, it just represents the holiness of who God is, right? So Christ did not come to, to destroy the law, but to fulfill the law. And that the law can be fulfilled in us who walk according to the spirit. So that righteous requirement comes to those who learn to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh.

And then let's jump over to Romans nine.

And we're gonna end with this Romans nine, verse 30.

So hopefully you get the idea that living in righteousness through faith, it's not just a rabbit trail. I'm off on, or this Particular topic I'm so obsessed with. It's the very core of the scripture. And if you go through Romans, you see it over and over again.

And Romans nine, verse 30, Paul. Now if you're familiar with Romans 9, 10, 11. Paul is talking about. What is the state now with the nation of Israel? That sense they have mostly rejected Christ as a Messiah and does God have a plan for them? And so Paul addresses that in these chapters, but.

There's some real gems in here talking about righteousness. So verse Romans nine 30, he says, what shall we say? Then the gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained to

righteousness. He's talking about the Gentile Christians, even the righteousness. Faith, but Israel pursuing the law of righteousness.

Now the religious leaders of Israel seem to be pursuing the law of righteousness, but it says they have not attained to the law of righteousness. Why did they not attain to the law of righteousness? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law for they stumbled at that stumbling stone has written and he goes on to talk about.

Let's just read, it's the end of the chapter. Behold, I lay and Zion in a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on him will not be put to shame. So a, an Old Testament quote about faith again, and yet the Jews stumbled because. Christ came. Paul came saying, Hey, you're sinners. You need a savior.

And they're like, no, we're not sinners. We're righteous. We're righteous. And that's where, okay, now you've just cut yourself off from God. Cause you won't admit you're a sinner, but notice. He verse 32. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. And I think it's the same principle for us, we wonder, why don't I have peace in my life?

Why don't I have God's power? I think it's because you're not seeking it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. Now, there's one other story we're not gonna have time to go into, but I just wanna throw it out there about Jesus. In Luke 8 22 where he is telling the his, this disciples are gonna cross over on the boat.

And then the big storm comes up and the water starts to fill the boat. And they're, it's at night. It's scary. They think they're gonna sink and Jesus is sleeping and they wake Jesus up and they say, Lord we're perish.

Save us. And he wakes up and he says, where's your faith? First he says, peace be still to the ocean and to the wind and the waves and everything calms down. And then he looks at me, he says, where's your faith? So I saw in that story, that connection between faith and peace, right?

You see that? And the, and I think the Lord is saying to us, you should have more faith by. And I love that. I love to be challenged by the Lord. I don't like to be corrected by the Lord, but I like to be challenged. Come on Rick, you got, you should have faith or somebody else tell me that, Hey man, come on.

Rise up your faith. What are you doing? Yeah, that's right. And that's what Fellowship does. You know where like even this morning in our part, I'm like just people were firing all cylinders. Man, it was great. And just the encouraging your faith. And the Lord I think says to us, look you're panicking about these storms in your life, which by the way, are gonna continue to come.

There was no promise of smooth sailing. And he says, but look, I wanna know where your faith is because I've been around you all this time doing miracles and you still don't get it. And I think that's the question for us. Where is your faith? And that Jesus, whatever trials come into your life, you immediately.

Lord, you're in control. I'm not gonna panic you, you seem like you're sleeping right now, Lord. It doesn't seem like you're aware of what's going on, but I know you know what's going on, and I don't even need to wake you up. I'm not, I'm gonna have that much faith. I'm just gonna wait for you to deliver us, to deliver me by faith.

Now that's something the Lord would be pleased with. He would've woke up and said, Blessed. I've not seen such great faith in all Israel. You know where, remember he had said he marveled at that guy's faith two times in the Bible where Jesus marveled. Now to get God to marvel at you is quite an accomplishment.

He marveled at their faith at that man's faith. He says, the scripture says he marveled at the faith. It was the one who said, Lord, don't come to my house. Just speak the word and my servant will be heal. And the Lord just stopped everybody hey, look. Look at I'm not seeing such great faith in all Israel.

This guy's a gen pile. And then he marveled at something else, at the unbelief when he went back to Nazareth and they didn't believe. So he marvels at our unbelief and he marvels at our belief. That's the only way you're gonna impress the Lord is your faith in him and trust in him. And that's how I wanna live more and have that peace of God.

So let's pray. Lord, we thank you that you do speak that over our lives. You speak peace be still.

But Lord you've taught us so much and you've done so many miracles and yet the next trial that comes we panic so often and Lord, that we would just be people of faith. And Lord, you said, without faith it's impossible to please you. And so Lord, we just wanna learn to walk in faith and feed our faith with the word of God.

Faith comes by hearing by the word of God and Lord, some of us need to change what we're feeding our hearts and minds with, and bring more of the word of God in and ask the Spirit to feed our faith. And as we said, Lord, we were never created to bear these burdens. Of course, that's why there's rampant anxiety and Lord, but as people of God, that we would just allow your Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth to, to bring these things to our remembrance.

We, we can't even memorize enough scriptures to work all this out. Lord, it's so beautiful the way you've set it up that we just yield to the spirit. To teach us to bring these scriptures to our remembrance and then we just trust you and faith is that powerful force, Lord, to move mountains to. And then Lord, we'll have righteousness in our life.

We'll have peace in our life and we all want that, Lord, and you want that for us. And so May as we go today that we would just. Walk in this week and we come back and just say, wow what a difference this week has made. Because I'm beginning to walk in faith, as you said, the righteous will live by faith.

There is no other way. We go from faith to faith, and so we're gonna have challenges today and this week, but we're gonna just trust you with each one Lord, and see your peace rule in our hearts. And the others will look at us and say, wow, what? What's changed about you? And you say, I'm just trusting Jesus.

You can do the same. And so we just thank you, Lord, that your spirit is speaking today. And Lord, we just pray for this meal. You bless our fellowship. Thank you for providing this food and just bless our afterglow time. In Jesus name, amen.