

## Lesson 6

# Justified by Faith

## *What personal faith does for us*

### Introduction

The fact that we are saved by grace through the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus is essential. Understanding the obedient call to the gospel as putting away the body of sin and being reborn through the blood of Christ is not an optional teaching. The gospel reveals the righteousness of God in the fact that sin destroyed our relationship with Him, and a price for sin had to be paid. Furthermore, we had nothing to offer since we were the creation of God. The only suitable offer was our sacrifice. But God, rich in His mercy, made the ultimate atoning sacrifice for our sins. God became flesh and, with innocent blood, gave his life to pay for me/us. There is no salvation without the anointed, the redeemer, the propitiation for our sins, and that is Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior. (Acts 4:12), "There is no other name under heaven whereby we MUST be saved." There is no payment for sin with his blood, and there is no forgiveness without his death and hope without His resurrection. In God's marvelous plan, all things come together in Jesus, the redeemer of the lost. The New Testament writers never differed on these facts, and Paul firmly attests to these points in 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11.

This lesson will address the personal faith that moves us from a lost condition into reconciliation with God. In Romans 3:23, we are told that all sin and fall short of the glory of God. This is one of the most familiar passages in the book of Romans, yet we sometimes speak of it as a matter of fact without regarding the severity of this statement. Sin is a violation of God's holiness. There is nothing impure about God, He is Holy. Sin moves us from a state of holiness before God into a state of being unholy and unable to be in His presence. Sin moves us from a just position where we share in His nature to an unjust position where we have no right to be in his presence. The Old Testament demonstrates God's anger towards sin and those who commit it.

Read Exodus 19. Answer the following questions:

1. What would you feel if you witnessed the clouds, smoke, thunder, lightning, and shaking of the mountain?
2. Why do you think God made this demonstration to the children of Israel?
3. What commands did He give to the people about the mountain?
4. What warning did God give them concerning trying to look upon Him?

5. Why did God appear this way and invoke fear in Israel?

In Exodus chapters 20 through 31, God communes with Moses and reveals the law. In Chapter 32, Moses is still on the mount, and what do the children of Israel begin to do? What was their reaction to all God had done to demonstrate He is God? How would you define their faith?

## **For Discussion**

2. Can real faith be established by witnessing God's miracles?
3. Israel constantly wandered from the commands of God and his observances. What was wrong with them?
4. We have the biblical accounts of what they saw when we struggle. What is wrong with us?