

Series: The Book of Romans - Scripture: Romans 1:8–17

Main Idea: A faith that is known, unashamed, and enduring is formed through testing and sustained by the power of the gospel.

1. A Faith That Is Proven

Paul begins by saying the Roman church's faith is being reported around the world. That kind of faith does not come from comfort. It comes through testing. The early church faced real persecution, and instead of shrinking back, their faith grew stronger. Like 1 Peter 1:6–7 teaches, trials refine faith like fire refines gold. What is revealed is something more genuine and more durable.

Truth: Faith becomes visible when it is tested.

Reflection: Where is your faith being stretched right now?

Challenge: Choose to trust God in that place instead of pulling back.

2. A Faith That Is Unashamed

The reason their faith became known is because it was not hidden. Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Unashamed faith does not edit truth, does not stay silent, and does not change based on the environment. It is a faith that shows up in everyday life. That kind of faith often creates tension with culture, just as it did in Rome. But that tension is not a sign something is wrong. It is often a sign that faith is real and visible.

Truth: Faith is known because it refuses to hide.

Reflection: Where are you tempted to shrink back or stay silent about your faith?

Challenge: Take one step this week to live your faith openly in a real setting.

3. A Faith That Relies on God's Power

Paul does not say he is unashamed because he is bold. He says it is because the gospel is the power of God for salvation. The gospel is not just the message, it is the source of strength. We do not stand on our own ability, we rely on God's power working through us. As 2 Corinthians 12:9 reminds us, His power is made perfect in weakness.

Truth: We stand not by our strength, but by God's power.

Reflection: Where are you trying to rely on your own strength instead of God's?

Challenge: In your next moment of pressure, pause and ask God for strength before responding.

4. A Faith That Grows Stronger

Faith follows a pattern. It begins with trust, is tested through hardship or persecution, relies on God's power, and comes out stronger. Then the cycle repeats. Each time, faith becomes more pure, more resilient, and more visible. This is how a faith becomes known.

Truth: Tested faith, sustained by God, becomes stronger faith.

Reflection: Can you see how God has grown your faith through past trials?

Challenge: When the next trial comes, view it as an opportunity for God to deepen your faith.

Closing Thought: You are going to be known for something. What if it was unashamed faith in Jesus Christ, a faith that stands firm because it is rooted in the power of the gospel.