

## Faithful In Christ

**Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:**

**Paul,** Demonstrates grace orientation by the believer Saul.

**an apostle.** Bestowed by the Holy Spirit, establishing authority in the Church Age.

**of Christ.** The anointed One by God the Father, to whom Paul serves.

**Jesus.** Humanity of the Second member of the Godhead.

**by the will of God,** Ultimate authority, designating purpose and plan.

**To the saints.** Set apart to God, including every believer of the Church Age.

**who are at Ephesus.** Not in the more reliable early manuscripts.

**and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:**

Here is the secret to living life as a Christian. And I say 'secret' because very few know it, even though it is all through the New Testament.

**faithful** is an *adjective* used as a *noun*: *pistos* It is translated 'trustworthy' or 'faithful.' Now to get to what this is referring to we look at the fruit of the Holy Spirit in

Faithful In Christ  
Ephesians 1:1-2

**Galatians 5:22 but the fruit of the Spirit is love** (Spiritual Love), **joy** (inner happiness regardless of what is going on in life) **peace** (inner peace, regardless of what is going on in life) **patience or longsuffering; kindness, goodness, faithfulness**

*faithfulness* which is the *noun pistis*, which like the adjectival noun (adjective used as a noun) in Ephesians 1:1 is translated trustworthy or faithful. What Paul is describing here in Ephesians 1:1 are believers who consistently walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). They are faithful in their relationship with Jesus Christ. But the question arises in verse one, what is the object of faith of the faithful believer? We are ‘in’ Christ by faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

We are ‘in’ Christ in our sanctification.

We are ‘in’ Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

But how are we Faithful in Christ?

1. Christ died spiritually and physically on the cross to provide eternal salvation to anyone, and everyone who believes in Him as Savior.
2. Then, after His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God, He asked God to send to everyone who believes, the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17.
3. God responded by supplying everyone who believes in His Son for salvation with the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 3:5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?**

**So then, does He.** God the Father, the first member of the Godhead.

**who graciously supplies you.** Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**with the Spirit.** Third member of the Godhead.

**And.** even.

**works.** *Present Active participle* = **working.**

not **miracles.** but **power.**

not **among you.** But in you, **do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?** So, verse 5 should read:

**Galatians 3:5 (Revised Translation) So then does He who graciously supplies you with the Spirit even working power in you, do it by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith?**

Galatians 3:1-5 teaches that we are indwelt and we are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith, not by works. There are those who correctly stand for receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by faith but when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit they contend that you now have to go to works—repentance, confession, or some other list.

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

Let's examine the problem of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

There are untold number of books and pamphlets on The Gospel.

There are those who contend that you have to do something from your sinful fallen nature. It may be mental—repentance or tongue—confession or overt – some ritual like water baptism and they write their books and papers on their gospel of salvation by works.

Then, there are those who see correctly from the Bible that we are saved from the penalty of sin by grace through faith alone in Christ alone, and they write their books defending the gospel of grace.

But what happens when this same group who correctly defend the gospel of grace by faith alone in Christ alone, come to the gospel of restoration from the power of sin as a believer and move into the works camp? Now from your sinful state you have to repent or confess or do something for God to restore you from your sinful condition under the power of sin to the power of the Holy Spirit.

What they fail to grasp is that both are part of the Gospel: being saved from the penalty of sin and being saved from the power of sin. Both are a form of salvation that demand only the work of God, and both are received by the sinner the same way...by grace through faith. The Gospel does not change once you are saved eternally. Every dealing we have with God is on the basis of the Gospel.

1. When a believer sins, Mental Attitude Sin or Sin of the tongue or overt sin, he/she is immediately out of the filling or empowerment of the Holy Spirit and are therefore in the power of their flesh nature, The Inherited Sin Nature (ISN).

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

2. This means that the believer is spiritually dead as to production in his life on earth. The Christian is helpless to deliver himself from the power of sin. They need to be saved or delivered from the power of sin. Not that much unlike when they were unbelievers needing to be saved from the penalty of sin. Only now they need to be saved or delivered from the power of sin. Both salvations or deliverances are the sole work of God, therefore The Gospel.
3. When the believer is in the power or control of the flesh nature there is nothing he can do from his flesh nature (ISN Inherited Sin Nature) to cause God to come to his aid, any more than there was when he was an unbeliever under the penalty of sin. He is in need of 'The Gospel,' his flesh nature can do nothing to please God, so that God would restore him to the power of His Spirit.

**John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

Our flesh nature (Inherited Sin Nature) profits nothing. If we confess from it...nothing, if we repent from it...nothing. This means that when we are under the power of the flesh nature, confession, repentance, feeling sorry, etc., profits nothing before God. Faith is all we can do in the flesh. This pattern was established in the gospel, at our initial eternal life salvation. And the grace pattern of the gospel continues for God to restore us as believers. Our Faith is the only action compatible with Grace.

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

4. Now, when a believer is under the power of sin and needing to be saved or delivered from the power of sin, he is in a position where God alone can save or deliver him. There is nothing in his flesh that can produce something that will cause God to save him. He is under his Inherited Sin Nature (ISN) which is impotent and helpless before God.

Here is where a lot of Bible students change their theology without explanation or Biblical justification. They contend that the ISN can repent or confess and that is the function or work that will cause God to save them or deliver them out of the power of sin and back into the power of God the Holy Spirit. These same Bible students would correctly protest that there is nothing the unbeliever can do under the penalty of sin, under the Inherited Sin Nature that will cause God to save them or deliver them from the penalty of sin. They also correctly teach that when a believer sins, they are out of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and under the power of their Inherited Sin Nature or flesh nature. They also would correctly argue that to say that an unbeliever under the power of his Inherited Sin Nature who contends that they can be saved by confession or repentance or anything else would be to claim that that is salvation by works. But, with no explanation or no theological foundation, they now claim that a believer who is under the power of sin, and under their ISN can now do something like confession or repentance and God will respond to that work so as to restore them to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

No, the gospel does not change. The only power that can deliver a believer from the power of sin, is the same power that delivered him from the penalty of sin. That is the power of God and God alone!

And Salvation by God is always only by faith, from a sinful creature. If an unbeliever – faith in Jesus Christ saves or delivers the unbeliever from the penalty of sin. If a believer – faith in the Holy Spirit delivers the believer from the power of sin. Salvation for the believer into the sanctity of daily life is just as much the work of God as sanctification in Christ, both are the Gospel of grace.

**Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.**

All work by God for man must be on the basis of grace and the only thing man can do is faith, simple faith in a member of the Godhead. Sinners are not saved until they trust the One Sent by God for Eternal Salvation, His Son. And ‘saints’ are not restored to the Light until they trust in the one sent by God for Spirituality—His Spirit.

***Passages that teach faith in the Holy Spirit.***

It amazes me that people argue against faith in the member of the Godhead. But they do to defend their salvation, deliverance by works from the fallen flesh nature!

1. For the eye that will see:

**Isaiah 48:16 Come near to Me, listen to this:  
From the first I have not spoken in secret,**

Faithful In Christ  
Ephesians 1:1-2

**From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God (God the Father) has sent Me, (His Son, Jesus Christ) and His Spirit.”**  
(the Holy Spirit).

He sent His Son for eternal life and

He sent His Spirit for spirituality.

2. Faith is the only thing man can do from his sinful state:

**John 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”**

**John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”**

And for the eye that will see He sent His Son and He sent His Spirit. The sinner is not saved until he trusts in the one sent by God for Salvation, that is His son. The believer is not saved out of the power of his sinful flesh nature, and the power of sin, into the power of the Holy Spirit until he trusts in the deliverer that is His Spirit.

3. We walk in Him the same way we received Him.



**Colossians 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.**

We received Jesus Christ by faith. Therefore it is by faith, not by works of confession or repentance, but simple faith in the one God sent to empower us to live a worthy life.

4. Another passage on faith in the Holy Spirit is

**1 Corinthians 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit even of power,**

**1 Corinthians 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.**

Paul is speaking to believers, already saved by grace through faith. Now he is teaching them about the power to comprehend the Word of God. That object of their faith is the Holy Spirit.

5. That the Gospel always demands faith alone is clearly seen in

**Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”**

**For in it.** The Gospel.

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

**the righteousness of God.** The Righteousness of God is the issue for the unbeliever under the penalty of sin and for the believer under the power of sin.

**is revealed.** Daily in our lives.

**from faith.** In Jesus Christ.

**to faith;** In the Holy Spirit, Spirit whom Jesus and God the Father have graciously supplied every believer with; from faith for eternal life from the penalty of sin salvation and faith for temporal salvation from the power of sin The believer never stops walking, living by faith, not by confession or repentance or anything else from the Inherited Sin Nature.

**as it is written, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS.** Saved by the gospel of *by grace through faith.*

**man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”** Anything he receives from God will be by the same gospel of grace through faith.

Bill Bright who led a wonderful spiritual success, in winning souls for Christ in Campus Crusade for Christ, understood that the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit by faith.

### ***Filled By Faith***

“How can one be filled with the Holy Spirit? We are filled with the Spirit by faith. We received Christ by faith. We walk by faith. Everything we receive from God, from the moment of our spiritual birth until we die is by faith. Do you want to be filled with the Holy

Faithful In Christ  
Ephesians 1:1-2

Spirit? You can be filled right now, wherever you are by faith.”  
(underline added)

<https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/transferable-concepts.html>

6. Again, for the eye that will see from the anguished question in

**Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?**

**Wretched man that I am!** As a believer under the control of his flesh.

**Who will set me free from the body of this death?** When the believer is under the control of his Inherited Sin Nature, he is *dead* before God. Again, not unlike he was as an unbeliever; spiritually dead and in need of the gospel, in need of God to come to his rescue. Then, in following passage (Romans 7:25 to 8:27) Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit as the one who will free him from the body of sinful death.

7. That it is God the Holy Spirit who will set him free is clearly seen from

**Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

**Romans 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.**

**Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, (The believer who trusts in the Holy Spirit to restore him to spiritual life has his mind set on the Spirit)**

**Romans 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, (The flesh is not able to do anything before God: not confess, not repent, not feel sorry nothing in the flesh is acceptable to God)**

**Romans 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

This of course, means that repentance and or confession from our flesh nature does not please God.

In conclusion, The Gospel that sets us free is the same gospel for the believer under the power of sin as it is for the unbeliever under the penalty of sin. For the eye that will see Ephesians 2:8-9 applies to the

**Faithful In Christ  
Ephesians 1:1-2**

believer who is under the 'lust of our flesh' as it applied to us as unbelievers under the 'lust of our flesh.'

**Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;**

**Ephesians 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast**

**Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Grace is one of those words that almost every religious person uses, along with faith and love. Grace, faith and love: three 'buzz-words' that you will often hear. But you have to pay very close attention as to how the speaker is using these words. It is amazing how people will use the word 'grace.' In one context, 'this' is grace, but in another context 'that' is grace. And they will give you two maybe three different uses of the word grace in the same speech.

We have just studied how some proclaim the gospel is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are very strong on grace meaning no works of any category is to be added to simple faith. But, when it comes to restoration of empowerment of the Holy Spirit, grace is when the believer does something or says something as in repentance or confession. People, please do not be sloppy in your theology. Grace with God is always grace, which means no works of the Inherited Sin Nature, that is our flesh nature, can be added to or substituted for Faith. So let's

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

get a good clear, Biblical understanding of grace, what it is and what it is not. Paul will use this word eleven times in this epistle and we do not want to come up with eleven different meanings. In fact, we want to stay with one meaning or understanding of grace. We are to give praise and glory to His grace, 1:6; Our redemption is by His Grace 1:7; We are saved by grace 2:5, 8.

***Definition of Grace.***

The Greek word is *charis*.

The Complete Biblical Library: “the noun *charis* is formed from the root *char-* whose derivations all focus on that which gives pleasure, benefit, and happiness. Thus, there is a certain relationship between *charis*, ‘grace, kindness,’ and *chara*, joy. *Charis* evokes joy and delight, often in a totally undeserved and unexpected way.” They go on to point out that “the main gifts we receive because of grace are forgiveness of sins, fellowship with God, and eternal life.” And, as saved Christians we concentrate on our *fellowship with God* being by grace means that it must be by faith, for faith is the only thing compatible with grace; if it is not by faith, it is sin.

The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of the New Testament “A favor done without expectation of return; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor. *Charis* stands in direct antithesis to *erga*, works, the two being mutually exclusive.” But you see here is yet another word that is up for definition and change in definition. For example, to say that one is saved eternally by confession is works and not in accordance with grace. But, on the other

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

hand, to say that one is restored to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit by confession, well, now that is grace. If we understand definitions this is not grace it is restoration by works.

1. Grace depends on who and what God is, never on who and what we are or what we do, think or say. So, it is imperative that we know God, that we understand His existence, His essence, His attributes. So many Christians spend a great deal of time on themselves, improving themselves. All that does not matter before God. Any improvement of us before God must be by His doing on the principle of grace.

2. Grace is the name of the Plan of God.

**Grace to you.** This is grace to you for your advantage throughout your Christian life.

**And peace.** Not grace and love but grace and peace. It is from this word that we get the feminine name Irene. If you are thinking of naming your new daughter Irene, with the outlook that she will bring peace into your life...well, you may be in for a real shock. It may be a beautiful name but that is as far as we can guarantee. The Greek word means benefit, welfare, tranquility and prosperity. Here, Paul is expressing a few things to every believer, especially those who study the book of Ephesians. First, peace with God. We receive peace with God by faith as an unbeliever and we receive peace of God by faith as a believer. As the believer walks by faith in the Holy Spirit he receives peace of God in his soul. How do we know this? Because inner peace is fruit of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22. When the believer is walking by faith in the Holy

**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

Spirit he is benefited by the power and fellowship of the Holy Spirit who uses the doctrine in that believer's soul to benefit that believer in his life. This also means that the believer receives prosperity in his soul.

You will notice that this grace and peace are both for the advantage of the believer and is from God our Father from the ultimate source of God, Our Father. Paul put this here so that we will remember why Jesus came to earth. He came to take us to His Father and if you are in Christ by faith, He is your Father. We address our prayers to Him! He is the one who Plans our lives as Christians, and since He is perfect, His plan for your life is perfect. If you were born a male that is His perfect plan for you. If you were born a female, that is His perfect plan for you. No one should try to change the perfect plan of God. Father carries the idea of origin, possession and authority.

**and the Lord Jesus Christ.** Here is the key to all the grace from God. His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and glorification. Remember

**Colossians 3:1 Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

**Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

Note the fullness of Ephesians 1:2...**and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Lord.** Emphasizes the deity of Christ and His authority over your life.



**Faithful In Christ**  
**Ephesians 1:1-2**

**Jesus.** Emphasizes the humanity of Christ and our personal relationship with Him.

**Christ.** Emphasizes the divine appointment of Christ by God the Father. Put all three of these together, as here, and you have the unique person of the universe. If you study early church history, you will learn that for the first five to eight hundred years the Church was working on grasping and understanding the Divine and Human nature of Jesus Christ. He is undiminished Deity, true humanity in one person without the loss of either identity.

All three members of the Godhead are part of our daily lives.

**Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, and there certainly is if there is any consolation of love, of God the Father, and there certainly is if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, and by faith there certainly is if any affection and compassion,**

**Philippians 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. and this occurs when we are each walking in the Holy Spirit by faith.**

God's plan is perfect for you. Live each day in the grace and peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.