



Living By Faith Part 8—Gifts and Calling of God

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Romans 9:1-5]

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. ⁴ They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. ⁵ Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he

is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen

[John 1:11, AMP]

He came to his own people, (*the Jewish nation*) and they did not receive him but rejected him.

[Matthew 23:37]

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing”

[Revelation 7:9-10]

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

**“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”**

[Romans 9:6-8]

Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God’s people! ⁷ Being descendants of Abraham doesn’t make them truly Abraham’s children. For the Scriptures say, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted,” though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸ This means that Abraham’s physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham’s children.

[Romans 9:30-32]

What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God's standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. ³¹ But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. ³² Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. ³³ God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. But anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

[Galatians 3:26-29]

²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

1. Jesus invites us all into a "faith line" not a blood line

[Romans 10:9-10, TPT]

And what is God's "living message"? It is the revelation of faith for salvation, which is the message that we preach. For if you publicly declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will experience salvation. ¹⁰ The heart that believes in him receives the gift of the righteousness of God—and then the mouth confesses, resulting in salvation.

[Romans 11:11-14]

Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. ¹² Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

¹³ I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, ¹⁴ for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. ¹⁵ For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead

2. God's sovereign plan is worked out through the sin and brokenness of our lives

[2 Peter 3:9]

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

[Ephesians 2:10]

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

[Romans 11:11-15]

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3. God's call is still on your life!

[Romans 11:29]

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].

[Jeremiah 31:3-4]

"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
I will build you up again,
and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.

Again you will take up your timbrels
and go out to dance with the joyful.”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask God to remind you of the promises he has for you. Dream again and know that God’s call is still on your life.
2. Remind others in your circle that God hasn’t forgotten them. Encourage them to stand up in faith.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Have you ever tried to follow God by works or by rules and not by faith? How did that impact your relationship with God?
2. When God gives grace to someone you feel doesn’t deserve it, does that offend you? Do you only appreciate grace when it’s given to you?
3. 3. Galatians 3:26-29 How does this verse speak to the church today? What the church’s application? What is yours?
4. 4. What is faithline Jesus invited us into? Why not bloodline?
5. 5. Is there a call that God has place on your life? Have you forgotten/neglected it? What road block is stopping you from walking into those gifts and callings?
6. 6. What promises have you given up on? How does Romans 11:15 and the knowledge that God is a covenant & promise keeping God change your perspective on them?
- 7.