



**Living by Faith Part 1—Live by Faith**  
**Pastor Joseph Zwanziger**  
**8.29.2021**

**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.

**[2 Timothy 3:16]**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness by God.

**[Romans 1:1-7, ESV]**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

<sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### [Romans 1:8-15]

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— <sup>12</sup> that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. <sup>15</sup> So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

### [Romans 1:16-17]

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

## **The Gospel is the Power of God for Salvation.**

### [Romans 1:16]

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

“Gospel”: **euangelion** - “glad tidings, good or joyful news; the preaching of, or instruction in, the Gospel”

“Religion says, ‘I obey – therefore I’m accepted.’ The Gospel says, ‘I’m accepted – therefore, I obey.’ Religion says, ‘I obey God in order to get things from God.’ The Gospel says, ‘I obey God to get to God – to delight and resemble Him.’” – Tim Keller

**[Romans 1:17]**

For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

**The Righteous = those who have put their faith in Jesus, walking in His ways**

“Faith”: *pistis* - “belief, firm persuasion/conviction”

*Religion says behave, then believe, and then you belong;  
Our church says belong, then you can believe, and your  
behavior will follow.*

**Four Steps to Live by Faith:**

**1. Hear the Word.**

**[Romans 10:17]**

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**2. Trust the Word.**

### **[Proverbs 3:5-6]**

<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup>In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

***I do not have to understand the Word completely to trust the Word completely.***

### **3. Obey the Word.**

#### **[James 1:22–25, NKJV]**

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

***If you're feeling stuck in where God wants you to do, go back to what He told you to do last.—Dave Patterson***

### **4. Confess the Word.**

**“We must confess by speaking the Word of God to our situation...We need to declare the Word of the Lord to our mountain, our problem, and see it removed by faith.” – Dr. Wendell Smith**

#### **[Romans 10:8-10, 13]**

<sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if

you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

<sup>13</sup>For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

## **FOR MONDAY—**

1. Challenge yourself to take your Bible reading a step further: intentionally look into the context for more understanding.
2. Consider one way that you can practically trust the Lord more this week.

## **TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What does a “lifelong learner” look like? Why is it important to remember that we never “arrive?”
2. When have you been misunderstood based on a lack of details? How did you provide background or clarity?
3. Why is context for Scripture so significant to understanding and applying God’s Word?
4. For what reasons do you think Paul went to great lengths in his introduction in his letter to the Romans? [verses 1-7] When have you had to present qualifications or emphasize importance to a group of people?
5. Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel...” How is that applicable in today’s culture? How does it factor into your day-to-day living?
6. How does believing the power of God in the Bible change your framework for living by it? How is the Gospel more than just religion?
7. What is righteousness? What’s the difference between right standing with God and trying to achieve our own righteousness?