

DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND FAITH?
PT 7 - FAITH AND OUR COVENANT

Galatians 3:13-18, 26-29...Romans 4:13-16, 5:1-2...Romans 7:1-4...Hebrews 8:6-7, 10:1-9

The Jews lived by faith in the word of the Law and the first covenant. Christians live by faith in the law of grace and the second covenant. Faith takes the Christian to the grace of God to receive and appropriate the blessings and conditions of the promises of the second.

Luke 7:1-10 The centurion was under authority. Submitting to the authority over him enabled him to exercise authority. Jesus submitted to the authority of the Father and that enabled him to exercise authority.

The centurion used his authority to accomplish the will of Rome; Jesus used His authority to accomplish the will of the Father.

The centurion had absolutely no religious law or ordinance to obey. He didn't even believe Jesus had to be physically present. He believed that the Word of the Lord was enough to produce results.

The centurion is a type & shadow of how Christians are to live.

Christians are not under the Law and are not living under the first covenant. It is our faith which enables us to receive from God: Heb 11:6. Since Christians are not under the Law, we are not required to perform the ordinances of the Law to receive from God.

Jesus has permanently removed the Law and the first covenant. Jesus has permanently established the second covenant and final law, the law of grace. In Jesus, Christians are dead to the Law. In Jesus, Christians have a better covenant. In Jesus, Christians have better promises. The faith of a Christian cannot produce any blessings associated with performing the works and ordinances of the Law and the first covenant. Our faith must be in the completed work of Jesus in order to receive the benefits, blessings and promises associated with the second covenant.

Example: If I tithe and then expect blessings revealed in such passages as Malachi chapter three, my faith to receive those blessings is in my act of tithing. However, the commandments regarding tithes, as recorded in Malachi, were established under the Law and the first covenant. Since I am dead to the Law through the Body of Christ, I am dead to those commandments. Since I am dead to those commandments, I am also dead to the promised blessings associated with performing what was commanded. Even so, under the second covenant, I have access to better promises, promises that are received through faith. Therefore, my faith should be in the Word of the second covenant, not in my act of tithing.

Under the second covenant, tithing and any other amount given is not about getting blessed. Rather, it is about fulfilling God's Kingdom will on Earth.