



# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

**T**herefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5: 1-5

Justification by faith is what separates biblical Christianity from all other belief systems. In every religion, and in some branches (man-made doctrines) of what is called “Christianity,” a person is working their way to God. Only in true, biblical Christianity is a person saved as a result of grace through faith.

So what is faith?

“Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]. For by this [kind of] faith the men of old gained [divine] approval. By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed and created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. “Hebrews 11: 1-3

The word *justified* means “pronounced or treated as righteous.”

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For a Christian, justification is the act of God not only forgiving the believer's sins but attributing to the believer the righteousness of Christ. The Bible states in several places that justification only comes through faith (**Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:24**). Justification is not earned through our own works such as going into a building ("church"); tithing; praying; fasting; reading the Bible; confession to a priest; "religious" rituals; etc., rather, we are covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5**). The Christian, being declared righteous, is thus freed from the guilt of sin. A Christian can have faith that *justified by faith* is the Truth from God. Anything is a false doctrine/gospel.

Justification is a completed work of God, and it is instantaneous, as opposed to sanctification, which is an ongoing process of growth by which we become more Christ-like. Sanctification occurs after justification.

Understanding the doctrine of justification is important for a Christian. First, it is the very knowledge of justification and of grace that motivates good works and spiritual growth; thus, justification leads to sanctification. Also, the fact that justification is a finished work of God means that Christians have assurance of their salvation. In God's eyes, believers have the righteousness necessary to gain eternal life.

Once a person is justified, there is nothing else the believer needs in order to gain entrance into heaven. Since justification comes by faith in Christ, based on His work on our behalf, our own works are disqualified as a means of salvation (**Romans 3:28**). There are numerous religious systems that teach the false doctrine of justification by works. But they are teaching "a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all" (**Galatians 1:6–7**). Such a false belief is a sin (**Galatians 1: 8-9**).

Without an understanding of justification by faith alone, we cannot truly perceive the glorious gift of grace. When a person believes they are justified by their works, they pervert God's "unmerited favor" which becomes "merited" in our minds, because we begin to think and believe that we deserve salvation. The doctrine of justification by faith helps us maintain "pure devotion to Christ" (**2 Corinthians 11:3**). Holding to justification by faith keeps us from falling for the lie that we can earn heaven. There is no ritual, no sacrament, no deed that can make us worthy of the righteousness of Christ. It is only by His grace, in response to our faith, that God has credited to us the holiness of His Son. Both Old and New Testaments say, "The just shall live by faith" (**Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38**).

Don't get caught in satan's trap of thinking that you can or must earn your salvation. This leads to pride; self-worship and sin.

Walk in faith and confidence by believing that God gave you the gift of salvation through the works of Jesus Christ! Believe it!

**“ LET HIM WHO BOASTS,  
BOAST IN THE LORD. ”**