

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

Justification means -

- To be made right, to be in a right standing.
- To be declared free of blame.
- To be freed of the guilt and penalty attached to a crime or sin.

Justification is a legal term and is used in the New Testament to explain the salvation God has given us in Christ.

Acquittal means to be exonerated, released or freed.

This acquittal or exoneration from our sin comes to us solely by response to Christ by faith.

Romans 1:17 (nlt) This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

Romans 3:28 (nkjv) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Romans 5:1 (nkjv) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 2:16 (niv) Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

JUSTIFICATION IS AN ACT OF ACQUITTAL

a. Acquittal Requires Only Legal Innocence

Our justification depends upon the just acquittal God has secured for us in Christ.

b. Justification is a Heavenly Verdict, Not an Earthly Work

Justification is based solely upon the merits of Christ and His substitutionary death.

THREE BENEFITS OF JUSTIFICATION

a. A Full Pardon

This gift is available to those who first acknowledge their guilt, and then flee to Christ for refuge.

1 John 1:9 (niv) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Because of our faith in the sacrifice of Christ, even though we are guilty, God treats us as though we are innocent.

Micah 7:18-19 (nlt) Where is another God like you, who pardons the sins of the survivors among His people? You cannot stay angry with Your people forever, because You delight in showing mercy. 19: Once again You will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under Your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean!

Isaiah 55:7 (nlt) Let the people turn from their wicked deeds. Let them banish from their minds the very thought of doing wrong! Let them turn to the Lord that He may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

b. Complete Forgiveness

God has not only pardoned us but has also turned aside His anger by forgiving us of our offences!

Psalms 85:2-3 (gw) You removed your people's guilt. You pardoned all their sins. 3: You laid aside all your fury. You turned away from your burning anger.

Ephesians 1:7 (gw) Through the blood of His Son, we are set free from our sins. God forgives our failures because of His overflowing kindness.

c. Enjoying Inner Peace

If we truly know that we have been justified by faith in Christ, then we will find an immediate release from the guilt of a sinful conscience.

Romans 5:1 (nlt) Therefore, since we have been made right (justified) in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Acts 13:38-39 (nlt) "Brothers, listen! In this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. 39: Everyone who believes in Him is freed from all guilt and declared right with God - something the Jewish law could never do.

Being justified, means we need to also accept that we are reconciled: that is, mutual trust and confidence are restored between us and God.