



STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Teaching Title: Christian Faith

Key Scripture: Romans 10:5–13

CEDAR VALLEY

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: Romans 4

Tuesday: Romans 10

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:3–12

Thursday: Hebrews 11

Friday: Hebrews 12

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's word, what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

MEMORY TOPIC:

Faith

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 10:10 NLT

For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

Introduction:

What is faith? Is it simply to believe in something or someone? Is it believing the best about someone? How does Scripture define faith? The Greek word for "faith" is *pistis*, a deeply relational term (see Digging Deeper). According to Romans 10 and Hebrews 11 and 12, faith is not merely intellectual belief (though that's part of it) or hopeful optimism. Faith is trust in Jesus Christ as Lord. It's the recognition that Jesus is Lord, the reliance on His resurrection, and the reception of the free gift of salvation. Saving faith isn't about trying harder, it's about trusting deeper. It's not just about what you believe; it's about what you do with what you believe.

Questions:

Icebreaker—What's the dumbest injury you've ever had?

1. Read Romans 10:5–13 together as a group. What does this passage reveal to you about God?
2. In Romans 10:5–9, Paul quotes two Old Testament passages (Leviticus 18:5 and Deuteronomy 30:12–14) to highlight the difference between the law of Moses and the law of faith. What is the distinction between "righteousness by law" and "righteousness by faith" as Paul describes it in this passage? (See Digging Deeper for more)
3. What does it mean to openly declare, or confess, that Jesus is Lord? (see Notes)
4. Why is it important to distinguish between believing about Jesus and trusting in Jesus?
5. Read Hebrews 12:1–2. This passage calls Jesus the author, perfecter, or champion of faith—what do you think that means?
6. Have you recognized Jesus as Lord, relied on Him, and received His gift of Salvation? How does real faith, and submitting to Jesus as Lord, change the way you make decisions about your time, money, or relationships?

Notes

Question #3

The Greek word for “LORD”—*Kurios* (KOO-ree-ose)—is used to denote someone who possesses authority, control, or power. In the Greco-Roman world, *kurios* referred to individuals who had authority over others, such as masters over slaves or lords over subjects. While this concept may not be popular in American culture, declaring Jesus as LORD means submitting ourselves to His authority...ALL of ourselves.

Digging Deeper

Introduction—the Greek word for faith is “*pistis*”

New Testament scholar, Dr. Nijay Gupta, wrote a book called *Paul and the Language of Faith*. His book takes a deeper look at the Greek word *pistis* which is often translated “faith.” Below is an excerpt from an interview on this book that can be found here:

<https://overthinkingchristian.com/2020/01/21/paul-and-the-language-of-faith-an-interview-with-nijay-gupta/>

“For Christians today, I want to communicate that Paul’s faith language is deeply relational, focusing on participating in a covenantal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This might seem obvious, but often we treat “faith” as a matter of “holding” doctrines. Sound teaching is important, but when Paul talked about “faith” (*pistis*), he primarily had in mind oneness with God through Christ expressed in relationship...

Sometimes it is hard to decide if *pistis* should be translated “faith” or “trust” or “faithfulness,” because these English words have meanings that blend into one another. But if I wanted to ensure that two ideas were clear in English translations of Paul, it would be that (1) *pistis* is often used as something active and related to “doing” (Galatians 5:6), and (2) *pistis* often focuses on connection and commitment in relationship (in the case of Paul, in reference to relating to Jesus Christ). When Paul was concerned with “faith,” he was caring about their trust in and commitment to God in Jesus Christ. We tend to think of “faith” as doctrine, “beliefs,” or religion (as in “faith” traditions), but for Paul it was all about a person—Jesus (see Galatians 3:23, 25)...

First of all, there are clear places where faith and doing belong together (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Secondly, when Paul did juxtapose faith and works (e.g., Galatians 2; Romans 4), he wasn’t treating faith as passive. Rather, he was concerned with anything, even works, that would distract from the focus on trusting in and clinging to Christ. It is like marriage. In a marriage, you vow to do things, but the substance of the marriage isn’t the activities, but the relationship of love and trust.”

Questions #2:

“Verse 5 concentrates on the works of the law and verses 6–8 on faith, emphasizing that human achievement has nothing to do with faith. Human effort can neither bring about the incarnation nor produce the resurrection (v. 7). Only the word of faith can accomplish anything (v. 8).”

—Dr. Grant Osborne, Romans, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series, p. 267