

*Faith Cometh
By Hearing*

Enduring Faith

*Sermon Preached By
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Let's go to Romans chapter 5, verse 1. **“Therefore being justified by faith.”** Let's take the word justified, and give it a more accurate translation.

The word justified should be translated righteousified. My mentor and scholar Dr. Gene Scott brought the translation of this word to my attention while teaching in Romans. I know that's not a word in the English language, but it's a better translation of the word. Therefore being righteousified.

Well, what do you mean righteousified and where did you get that? If you go back to Romans chapter 4, verse 3, you find that Abraham received God's righteousness by believing in Him, and because of that it was counted to him as righteousness. A better translation would be that he faithed God and it counted to him for righteousness. Therefore, Abraham was righteousified by faith. Not by praying, or by speaking in tongues. Not by a holy dance, or testimonies, or by anything else. I'm not putting those things down, but there's a right place and a right time for those acts of worship. Therefore being righteousified by faith, you become righteous; you don't receive God's imputed righteousness unless you get it through faith. I have to remind myself of that every day and some days a little bit more than others. When I have my spirit right, I realize that I have to hang in there and trust in

God's word, because I'm being righteousified. I realize what is presented before me; it is an opportunity to faith to get that righteousness that only God can impute into my being or into yours. Instead of looking at it as Wow, this is going to be a tough day, I'm really going to have to hang in there today... say, Thank you Lord! Through this tribulation or whatever you're facing, you're going to have to hang in there and trust in His word, trust in His character, and understand that He knows what's best for you. These types of opportunities usually mean hardships in most cases, and hardships that you have to go through. And if you're anything like me, you don't want to really go through those hardships on a continuous basis. However, no matter what the case is, it's an opportunity to trust in God's word through the situations. The result of this faith act is the wonderful gift of salvation and imputed righteousness from God. If you look at the website, teachingfaith.com, you'll find on the very first page, Romans 4:20, **“He staggered not, at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.”** Abraham became strong in faith and it was counted to him as righteousness. I once said that if I depart and go to the Lord before the rapture that I wanted my tombstone to read, ‘He was not ashamed to be called my God’ because I was strong in the faith. Because it takes faith to please God and if I am strong in the faith He will never be

ashamed to be called My God because of the faith I had in Him. Abraham staggered not at the promises of God from unbelief. One of the reasons why I chose this verse is because I lost my mentor in 2005 of 30 years when he went to be with the Lord. This is where he left off in his teachings on the book of Romans. So I decided to pick up at this same scripture, and use it to base this ministry on to give it vision and hope. That we would not stagger, even though we are still here, fighting the good fight of faith. We will not stagger, we will not fall, but we will be strong in the faith, giving glory to God. And verse 21 reads, **“being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.”** That is what trust in His word means. He promised it and we are faithing that He will perform it. No matter what the circumstances look like, God will perform if we stay true to his word by trusting in Him. In verse 22 in chapter 4, **“And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”** Because of Abraham’s strong faith, it was imputed to him for righteousness. So when you go to Romans Chapter 5 verse 1, scratch out justified, put it the new word, righteousified, by faith, which will give us peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. I have to remind myself daily of that and some days more often than others.

We live in tough times. We live in the last days of prophecy. Satan and his demon army are on a rampage. To destroy every true believer that lives his or her life faithing in God, being strong in the faith. Being imputed for

righteousness. Do you want to make the devil mad? Let him know that you're being imputed with righteousness from God. He's already ticked off that you have received grace, that free gift that only can be given through our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, because you're acting in faith, believing what God Has promised, you're being imputed with righteousness. Something Satan and his demons cannot obtain. That's why we're in a spiritual battle. The devil doesn't want to see any of us trusting and having faith in God's word. That is why Paul said at the end of his life, that I have fought the good fight of faith. Paul new how important the life of faith to a Christian was and still is. I could cram the message of faith to you week in week out. It will do you no good unless you start acting on it. You have to start understanding what God wants from you, and that is worship and faith. He wants you to recognize who He is, and what He said, and realize that He is serious. We have to hang in there through our circumstances. Too many individuals go on the seen instead of the unseen. They do not live by faith, they live by seeing is believing, and since they can't see a God, they cannot really believe or trust in Him. If the resurrection does not prove it to you with all the valuable resources that we have today then my friend, there is not much hope for you. I do not hear many other Christian preachers saying that! Many are called few are chosen. Jesus spoke in parables so not everyone can understand. I'm speaking tonight to the ones that do understand. That life's circumstances, life's struggles, at times bring you down but there is hope. There is an abundance of inspiration in God's word that can get you through those times. I'm going to get to those tonight. However, before I do that, I want you to understand that you only get righteousness through faith. And we are being righteousified by faith. And being righteousified by faith we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words,

you have come to understand that through your faith in Jesus, you're not alone in this fight of faith. Now let's go to Romans chapter 5, verse 3. **“And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also.”** Circle the words tribulations, patience and in verse 4 experience. I am going to give to you 3 Greek words that you need to learn and memorize. Therefore, when you are reading these scriptures, especially in verse 3, and verse 4, you have a better understanding of what Paul was trying to communicate here when you are going through your circumstances, trials, and tribulations. It has helped me and hopefully it will help you. Let's start with the word tribulations. **“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations.”** If you have a pencil, write in the margin of your bible the definition I am about to give to you. The word for tribulations in Greek is Thlipsis. It is used in the King James Version 45 times. Some of the words that were translated for Thlipsis in King James Version were anguish, burden, affliction, persecution, tribulation, and trouble, to be afflicted. However, what does the word actually mean? It means a pressing together. Just imagine being in a vice and the vice is just pressing in on both sides. In other words, you are in a tight squeeze and it is going to get tighter. Just imagine yourself in a vice and it's becoming tighter and tighter. Well put your circumstance in that position. Your circumstance is in that vice, and you're in there with it, and it's not getting any easier and it's starting to create pain in your life because it's closing in on you. It's squeezing the life out of you. And that's what the word means in the Greek. A pressing together for one purpose and one purpose only to see how you can handle the pressure through your situations and circumstances. This is a Greek word that I think you need to remember when you are going through Thlipsis or tribulation. Let's move on to the word patience. I'm going to spend more time on patience than any of the other 2 words. Patience in the

Greek is Hupomone. I want you to memorize it, and never forget it and use it daily. I pray to God daily, let your Hupomone ever increase in me for your glory. Hupomone is used 32 times in the King James Version of the Bible. Unfortunately, it's only been translated as enduring once, and patience 29 times. This is a huge mistake in translating the Greek. The word means steadfastness, endurance. Remember that word. Almost every time you come across the word patience the Greek word is Hupomone, or endurance. Verse 3 and not only so, but we glory in Thlipsis, knowing that the pressures worketh endurance (hupomone). Hupomone in the New Testament is the characteristic of a man who does not change direction from his purpose and is loyal to the faith, even though he is going through his greatest trials and sufferings. Hupomone, remember it folks. The best translation you'll find for that word is endurance. You're going to have situations that bring you under pressure, you're going to be squeezed by all sides, but those pressures are going to work endurance. There is a reason for endurance that tries us. Before I go onto the reason, I want to read a little more about Hupomone. This is from Dr. Thomas Teawell. Endurance is the wonderful Greek word Hupomone. I love that word. It means hanging in there no matter what. I'd like you to remember that. "Endurance is the quality of a marathon runner when he or she gets to the wall after about 16 miles, and it feels that it is not possible to go any further, Hupomone is the quality that keeps going no matter what." I have been there! I actually ran a marathon once, the Long Beach marathon in the 80's in California. I hit the wall at 16 miles. My right knee started to hurt, in fact it was hurting so much that the first aid medics that are placed throughout the course, notice that I was limping. I didn't know if I would finish. I didn't have a record time, but I finished. Well, that is just a race, my friend the spiritual race that we run everyday, has bigger

implications. We have to continue the spiritual race that we are running, no matter what. That's what Hupomone means. You have to endure it no matter what. Endurance is the wonderful Greek word Hupomone. I love that word. It means hanging in there no matter what. I'd like you to remember that. Hupomone does not mean just to be patient and wait for things to pass by. It does not mean to wait for your trials to go away. You cannot develop the attitude that you are just going to stay where you are. No, that's not what the Hupomone means at all. It is not the patience that miserably waits for the end. Hupomone means that we as individuals should start plugging into our source, Jesus Christ. There are times, and I have done this many times myself, where I can't wait to go to sleep at night to forget about all my problems. That's not what Hupomone is. Hupomone is not the stoic endurance of waiting for night when sleep will block everything out. Hupomone is not putting you're back to the wind, but turning around and walking into the wind. That's why I believe the best word for Hupomone is endurance. The word is not patience, the word is Hupomone and it means enduring no matter what. So let's start from verse 3 again. **“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that the tribulation worketh in Hupomone.”** We glory in the pressures, also knowing that the pressures worketh endurance. That's the purpose of Hupomone. That is why you have to trust in God's word. Everyone confronts all kinds of pressures and struggles, but they are different when you are a Christian because you have an enemy that does not sleep and is always planning your demise. When you start living a life of Faith in Christ, you soon will come to realize that your struggles and dealing with them will not be the same. Yes, the world has struggles whether you are a Christian or not, but the intensity is different. The mind tricks and the methods the devil uses against you is

something you have to be aware of and be on guard against with your spiritual weapons as described in Ephesians 6. There will be times he will make you fall flat on your face. However, all God wants from you is for you to get back on you're feet and head in the right direction again. And how do you do that? By trusting in Him and getting yourself focused back on his word, so He can impute righteousness through Faith back into your life. It's not complicated, but it's tough and that is why you need to understand the meaning of Hupomone. Remember we are to glory in the pressures and vices we are in, knowing that those pressures worketh Hupomone, or endurance. And it is Hupomone in verse 3 and 4, not patience. Let's go to the next word, experience. This is the third word I want you to remember, write it down in your bible, Dokime. It's only used 7 times in the King James Version. One of its meanings is, proving a trial or a proof of tried worth. In other words, Hupomone and Dokime together mean; a person that has been through a trial with endurance and is worth something that is precious to God. Another way of defining Hupomone and Dokime is that you've been put through the trials and tribulations and remained faithful by enduring the pressures of life because you have trusted in His word. Let's read all three Greek words together now. Write those words down if you haven't already. Thlipsis, Hupomone and Dokime. The pressures of life and the endurance they create through your trials, to be a proven individual who remains faithful to God and His word. Then you will have that hope at the end of verse 4. Because you went through all this, you have demonstrated your Faith in God and now he gives you that other gift that imputed righteousness. God does not just leave us there without any available help. The help is there. We just have to learn where to go for it. Obviously, you have to go to God's word. Thlipsis, Hupomone and Dokime. Knowing

those pressures worketh endurance. Do you think a marathon runner starts running 26 miles without any training? When I ran a marathon, I started with a few miles a day. And I started months ahead of time. Then I went to 5 miles, then to 7 miles. Then 3 weeks prior to the marathon, I ran 16 miles. I had to gradually increase the training every week until I reached the point where I knew that I could finish the race. Well, apply that same principle to those pressures in your life, those pressures that are producing Humomone or endurance. I know some of you don't like to hear it, but the more Thlipsis, or pressures you go through, the more endurance you will have. In addition, if you keep focusing on God's word, the more certain you become that God will always be there with you and He will see you through.

Because why? Dokime. Go to Hebrews chapter 12, verse 1. And I'll conclude with this. **“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race.”** Do you know what the Greek word for patience in that verse is? Hupomone, and it means endurance not patience. **“let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with the Hupomone.”** The race that is set before us. The race of life struggles is going to be there, whether you like it or not. Some races are more difficult than others are, but it's still going to be there. You can't escape it as a Christian. And remember when you're in your race, you have to have Hupomone to run that race that is set before you. You have to have the endurance and the knowledge of God's word that will help you through your race. Let's look at Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2 **“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith”**, scratch the word Our, it's in italic, it's not in the original translation. It should read, **“Looking unto Jesus, the author**

and finisher of faith.” He was first to make it all the way through in faith without failing. We have the promise that if we keep our eyes on Him, if we keep faithing in Him, He will also see us through. However, you’re going to have to run the race folks. I would love to sit here and tell you; ah, the race is going to be a piece of cake. You will have no problems with it. I’m telling you the race is like a vice squeezing in on you. However, we have the promise - Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. That if we run that race with Hupomone that is set before us, Jesus will be there with us every step of the way. We just have to remember to keep focused on God’s word. Learn and practice what Gods word says, and start basing you’re whole life on it. Remember these 3 Greek words. Thlipsis, Hupomone, and Dokime. The next time you are being tempted to quit the race because it is too tough, remember these wonderful Greek words. All you have to do is live your life in faith in God’s word and keep your eyes on Jesus. It is not easy, but it is necessary to have eternal life with Him. Remember if you are strong in the Faith, it gives Him glory. Keep Faithing in His word. **Remember faith pleases God.**

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