

## Bible Study

# Does Faith ‘trump’ God’s Law?

(Or is faith somehow more important than the Commandments?)

By Craig M White  
Version 1.2

“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4)

### Introductory Remarks

Some are of the view – and they are well-meaning – that faith (or trust) in God is more important than commandment keeping. Or somehow unrelated to it?

As one researcher explains, the faith as expounded by Paul, is not new but a continuation of the same faith as expressed in the Old Testament:

**"The view of faith and law [by Paul] reflected in this narrative is the same as that in Deuteronomy 30:11-14**, where Moses said, "What I am commanding you [*hammiswah hazzot*, lit., ‘this command’] is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach ... it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it [*ubilbababeka la‘asoto*]" . It is all so in keeping with the apostle Paul’s understanding of Deuteronomy in Romans 10, where he writes that the "word" that Moses says is "in your heart" is "the word of faith we are proclaiming" (Rom 10:8)" (John Sailhamer, *Genesis. The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, pp. 186-87). [emphasis mine]

There is not some huge gulf between Old and New Testaments at all, including in faith. Faith is the same in both Testaments but explained or worded differently for a different audience.

“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

“**For I the LORD do not change**; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:5-6)

Below are key Bible verses from both the Old and New Testaments that clearly teach **salvation is offered by grace through faith, not by keeping the commandments, human wisdom, good works, or any form of self-effort**. These passages emphasise that no one can earn salvation through their own righteousness. We rely on God for his goodness, mercy and kindness in offering salvation and providing this to us. It is impossible for any human to earn salvation

because as humans, with our natures, social pulls and wicked demon influences, are incapable of being perfect or able to observe the commandments perfectly. We cannot absolutely and completely fulfill the fruit of the spirit or the beautiful attitudes or any other Biblical standard. It is impossible.

So we trust God to pull us through by forgiving us and helping us little pieces of temporary flesh. This does not mean we must not strive to observe His commandments, produce the fruit of the spirit, exude the beautiful attitudes, do good works etc. These are the means of developing holy, righteous character – becoming like God, though in a very limited and small manner.

NB: This is not another article on the subject of faith; or what is faith; or what sort of faith is required for salvation. Rather, it is as per the title: does faith trump commandment keeping or is it more important than the laws of God? Biblical quotes are from the ESV.

### Old Testament Scriptures

The New Testament does not replace the Old Testament; or water it down; or make it less important. For example, in the Old we have Scriptures showing that even under the Law, salvation was never by commandment-keeping or good works:

“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.” (Is 64:6. Even our best attempts at are worthless before God. Only He is perfect and only He can grant eternal life which is a free gift)

“The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?” (Psalms 14:2-4)

“Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit. You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. *Selah* You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.” (Psalms 53:2-4)

“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4. Quoted in Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

“And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6. Quoted in Romans 4:3 9, 22; Galatians 3:6, James 2:23)<sup>1</sup>

But notice:

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<sup>1</sup> NB: These are the only places in the New Testament where Genesis 15:6 is quoted. Paul uses it to emphasise how justification is by faith; while James uses the verse to show that true faith must produces works.

"I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." (Genesis 26:4-5)

"Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you.

Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

"Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people." (Deuteronomy 9:4-6. They are not entering the Promised Land because of their 'righteousness, but because of God's promise to Abraham).

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

As we shall read below, the New Testament, as usual, emulates or is based on the Old.

## **New Testament Scriptures**

Scripture after Scripture shows we cannot earn salvation because it is impossible for any Christian to be perfect. We rely on salvation as a free gift from the Almighty and on His mercy, because Christ is our Advocate before the Father.

However, we must strive to develop holy righteous character which includes observing His commandments, develop the fruit of the spirit and beatitudes; do good works, use the gifts of the spirit and talents He has bestowed on Christians. We do this through faith or trust in God to help us to become like Him and to make it into His Kingdom.

Nowhere does faith negate or minimise observing His commandments:

"He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:9-14)

"For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.  
But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it  
the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:  
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.  
It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.  
Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.  
For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:20-28)

"Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness ..." (Romans 4:4-5)

"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace." (Romans 11:6)

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."  
Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?  
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe." (I Corinthians 1:18-21)

"... yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law [whether this means the rituals or the 10 commandments is debated] but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified." (Galatians 2:16)

"For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:10-11)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"... he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5)

## **Faith in both Testaments are fundamentally the same!**

It is self-evident that there is a continuity of grace, faith, commandments and such-like from the very beginning, through the Old Testament and into the New. There is no contradiction between the two.

Faith in both the Old Testament and the New Testament is the same in its essence and the New Testament repeatedly affirms that Old Testament believers were justified by faith, just as we are - by trusting the promise of the Redeemer who is Jesus Christ to forgive us, advocate for us and to resurrect us from the dead.

When we breath our last, we must believe that He is faithful and will fulfill His promise of salvation and resurrection – for only He can perform such a miracle. The Law of God is not a personage that can come down and resurrect us. Its purpose is to develop holy, righteous character to become like Him. It doesn't save, it guides and represents God's standards.

Notice how Scripture demonstrates this unbroken continuity:

1. Faith has always been trust in God's promise, apart from works: "And he [Abram] believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6) which is elucidated in Romans 4:3–5, 9–11, 20–24 and Galatians 3:6–9.

2. Old Testament believers looked forward to Christ by faith: See Hebrews 11 - the great "hall of faith" - commemorates Old Testament saints: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Rahab, and many others. "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar ... And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11:13, 39-40).

Look at what we are told by Christ Himself:

"On the Emmaus road, Jesus said, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ... And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

"For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me." (John 5:46)

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” (John 8:56)

Clear examples of acts of faith in the Old Testament with New Testament parallels include:

1. Abraham who believed God for a son and a seed (Genesis 15:6). Today we believe in Him who raised Jesus (Romans 4:24).
2. The ancient Israelites looked to the bronze serpent and lived (Numbers 21:9). No notice “As Moses lifted up the serpent...so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14–15).
3. Israel’s Passover at the time of the Exodus with blood on the doorposts spared them (Exodus 12:13). For Christians the blood of Christ redeems us from judgment (1 Peter 1:18–19; Revelation 5:9).
4. Rahab trusted the God of Israel to spare her (Joshua 2:11–12). Similarly, today gentiles are saved by faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:12–13; Romans 4:16–17) and subsequent obedience.

So, it is clear that there is one faith, one Saviour – but in two Testaments. Having faith or trust in God has nothing to do with faith ‘trumping’ or even ‘doing away with’ commandment observance because, as we know, the Commandments etc were observed in the Old Testament. One example stands out:

“I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.” (Genesis 26:4-5)

Old Testament saints were justified by faith as they looked **forward** to the promised Messiah, seeing Him from afar through promises, types, and prophecies. New Testament saints are justified by faith as we look **back** to the revealed Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Saving faith is the same in both Testaments: trust in God’s provision of a Redeemer who takes away sin and Who will resurrect us to life evermore.

As Hebrews 13:8 declares:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

The faith that justified Abel, Abraham, and David and all the true believers in the Old Testament is the same faith that justifies us today—faith in the Lamb of God who takes away our sins, whether He was anticipated, or had arrived in His first coming and returning at His second coming to finalise our salvation and to resurrect us to eternal life.

### **Walter C. Kaiser, jnr Speaks Out**

Walter C. Kaiser Jr. (one of the leading evangelical Old Testament scholars) explicitly states that true faith does not nullify, negate, or oppose obedience to God’s laws/commandments. Instead, he emphasises the continuity of the moral law and the harmony between faith and obedience,

especially in the debate over Romans 3:31, Galatians, and the relationship between the Old and New Testaments.

**“Paul’s point [i.e. Rom 3:31] is clear: faith does not nullify the Law; rather, it upholds and establishes it...** Far from being opposed to the Law, faith is the means by which the Law is fulfilled in the believer.” (“The Law as God’s Gracious Guidance for the Promotion of Holiness,” in *Five Views on Law and Gospel* (ed. Stanley N. Gundry (1996), p. 200). [emphasis mine]

“The same moral law that was given at Sinai continues to be the moral standard for believers today ... **Faith does not set aside the Law; it establishes the Law by providing the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to obey it.**” (ibid, p. 201). [emphasis mine]

“To claim that faith and law are opposed to one another is to misunderstand both the Old Testament and the New ... **The Torah was never set against faith; it was set against self-righteous attempts to earn salvation by works apart from faith.**” (ibid, p. 202). [emphasis mine]

“The law is not opposed to grace or faith; it is opposed to works-righteousness ... **Genuine faith always results in obedience to the commandments of God.**” (“Exodus,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, Vol. 2 (1990), p. 287). [emphasis mine]

“Paul never taught that the law was abolished or set aside for the believer. **What he taught was that the law is not the way of justification, but it remains the way of sanctification... Faith and obedience are not opposites; they are inseparable.**” (“The Weightier Matters of the Law,” in *Perspectives on the Sabbath: 4 Views* (2011), p. 308). [emphasis mine]

**“Nowhere does Scripture teach that faith cancels the commandments of God. Instead, the same God who saves by grace also commands obedience, and He gives the Holy Spirit to empower that obedience.”** (*Toward Old Testament Ethics* (1983), p. 313). [emphasis mine]

“True faith does not abrogate the law; it fulfills it. The law is not the enemy of faith, nor is faith the enemy of the law. Both come from God and serve His single purpose of making a people holy unto Himself.” (“God’s Promise Plan and Its Fulfillment in Christ,” in *The Uses of the Law* lecture series (unpublished, but quoted in *Toward Rediscovering the Old Testament*, (1987), p. 139)

What more can one add to these insights?

## Other Scholarly Works

There are a number of other sensible, conservative protestant scholars who know that Paul's faith is not a replacement for obedience to God's commandments but enables, fulfills, or expresses itself in obedience. In other words, the New Testament aligns with the Old Testament

understanding where trust in God naturally leads to faithful living according to His will. Following are a few of them.

Richard M. Davidson, "Justification by Faith According to the Old Testament" (in *The Spirit of the Lord and the New Creation*, 2011):

"We must clearly understand the truth about justification by faith, in view of its central importance in our lives and in view of Satan's special work to undermine and to confuse [justification]." (p. 1)

He introduces the idea that faith-based justification is present in the Old Testament (Genesis, Psalms, the Prophets), anticipating that of the New Testament (e.g., Romans 4; Hebrews 11).

Thomas R. Schreiner's "Does the Old Testament Teach Justification by Faith Alone?" [crossway.org](http://crossway.org), (2025):

"We recognize that Genesis 15:6 and Habakkuk 2:4 are fundamental to reading the whole counsel of God, including the Old Testament, because the New Testament writers cite these texts to defend the notion of justification by faith."

The Old Testament narratives/promises to Abraham and David include Biblical justification by faith. Thus, Paul's exposition in Romans 4 is not new but fulfillment, further clarity and continuation of the Old Testament's faith requirements.

Nicholas Wright's *Paul and the Faithfulness of God* (2013) dwells on covenant faithfulness echoing Old Testament models (e.g., Genesis 15:6; Habakkuk 2:4). He maintains that Paul's writings do not introduce a "different" faith but fulfills the Old Testament's hope through Jesus.

## **Positive Comments about the Laws declared in the New Testament**

Below is a comprehensive (though not exhaustive) list of key New Testament passages that present God's laws, commandments, or the Law of Moses/Christ in a clearly positive light - i.e., as good, holy, righteous, beneficial, eternal, delightful, or something to be loved, kept, taught, and fulfilled rather than abolished or negated.

### **The Gospels:**

- "But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'" [ie the Old Testament] (Matthew 4:4)
- "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-19)

- “What good thing must I do to get eternal life?” ... “You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery... Honor your father and mother... Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 19:16–19)
- “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40. Here Christ quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18)
- “And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” (Luke 10:25–28)
- “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word...” (John 14:15, 21, 23–24; 15:10. Jesus’ repeated linkage of love and obedience)

#### **Acts:**

- Thousands of Jewish believers “are all zealous for the law”. (Acts 21:20. Presented positively, not condemned!)
- “I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets.” (Acts 24:14)
- “I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar.” (Acts 25:8)

#### **Romans:**

- “For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.” (Romans 2:13)
- “Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.” (Romans 3:31)
- “What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! ...I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law.” (Romans 7:7)
- “So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.” (Romans 7:12)
- “We know that the law is spiritual...” (Romans 7:14)
- “...I agree that the law is good.” (Romans 7:16)

- “In my inner being I delight in God’s law.” (Romans 7:22)
- Christ came “so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3–4)
- Love fulfills the law; the commandments are summed up in “Love your neighbor as yourself.” “Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:8–10)

### **1 Corinthians:**

- “For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God.” (1 Corinthians 7:19)

### **Ephesians:**

- “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise) “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” (Eph 6:2–3. Quoting the Ten Commandments positively)

### **1 Timothy:**

- “We know that the law is good if one uses it properly... the law is made... for lawbreakers... and whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel...” (1 Timothy 1:8–11)

### **Hebrews:**

- “God will put His laws in our minds and write them on our hearts (positive new-covenant promise). (Hebrews 8:10 & 10:16. Quoting Jeremiah 31)

### **James:**

- “But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it... they will be blessed in what they do.” (James 1:25)
- “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right... Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom...” (James 2:8–12)

### **1 John:**

- “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar...” (1 John 2:3–4)
- We receive from Him because “we keep his commands and do what pleases him.” (1 John 3:22–24)
- “In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3)

- “And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.” (2 John 1:6)

### Revelation:

- The dragon wages war against those “who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.” (Revelation 12:17)
- “This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12)
- “Blessed are those who wash their robes [or: who do His commandments in some manuscripts], that they may have the right to the tree of life...” (Revelation 22:14)

These passages collectively show that the New Testament never treats God’s moral commandments themselves as bad, abolished, or optional for believers. They are repeatedly described as holy, good, spiritual, delightful, the standard of judgment, and the very definition of what it means to love God and neighbour.

Faith works with commandment obedience not superior to it. Nor is there any hint that God’s commandments transform into commandments of Christ which sort of waters down the 10 Commandments and other laws or replaces them. No hint of Sunday replacing Sabbath.

## Concluding Remarks

Both Old and New Testament exalt faith in God as paramount. But nowhere does faith ‘trump’ His commandments and ways that have been in place since Adam and Eve.

“Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”  
Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (John 6:28-29)

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” (Rom 3:28)

“... and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.” (Acts 13:39)

These verses show the consistent biblical teaching from Genesis to Revelation: **No amount of commandment-keeping, good works, religious effort, or human wisdom can earn salvation. It has always been by grace through faith in God’s provision—ultimately fulfilled with Jesus Christ helping, guiding and advocating for us. We cannot do it on our own!**

Nor has the Church of God ever taught otherwise – note:

“Again, Ephesians 2:8-9: "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." But those who quote this text so freely to teach the doctrine of "no works," never tell

you that the same inspired Scriptures say also:

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ... Even so FAITH, if it hath not works, IS DEAD, being alone ... I will show thee my faith BY my works. Thou BELIEVEST that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, AND tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works IS DEAD?" (James 2:14- 20).

There is no contradiction here!

Rather, by putting all the scriptures on the subject of "Saving Faith" together, we learn that there are TWO KINDS of faith. And the kind so blindly trusted in by the majority of this day is nothing but a DEAD faith — and a DEAD faith never will save one soul! Notice! James 2:20: "Faith without works is DEAD" — just a DEAD faith.

James continues: "Was not Abraham our father JUSTIFIED by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how FAITH wrought with his works, and BY WORKS was faith made perfect? ... You see then how that BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED, and not by faith only" (James 2:21-24). Then are we saved by works instead of faith? No, Never! We are saved by FAITH! But faith functions with our works and BY WORKS our FAITH is MADE PERFECT! That is LIVING FAITH!" (Herbert W Armstrong, *What is Faith?* pp. 19-20. The booklet was published in 1952, republished in 1971 and 1972).

Another booklet by Mr Armstrong was *What Kind of Faith is Required for Salvation?* published in 1952 and was incorporated as Part II of the aforementioned booklet in 1972:

"The purpose of the Law is not to forgive, to justify, to wash away, to cleanse. Only THE BLOOD OF CHRIST can do that! The purpose of the Law is to tell us what sin is — to define it, to REVEAL it — so we can quit it. Sin is the transgression of the Law — that's what sin IS." (p. 21)

"God's PURPOSE in salvation is to rescue men from SIN, and its resulting unhappiness, misery, and death! To REPENT of sin is the first step! Then the BLOOD OF CHRIST, upon acceptance and faith, cleanses of all past sins. And by FAITH we are kept from sin in the future. Thus the resulting righteousness is of FAITH — the righteousness imparted from God.

**We are not justified BY THE LAW — we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ! But this justification will be given only one condition that we REPENT of our transgressions of God's Law — and so it is, after all, only the DOERS of the Law that shall be JUSTIFIED** (Rom. 2:13).

How plain, and how beautiful is God's TRUTH!" (p. 27) [emphasis mine]

The Church of God clearly understands the truth about faith and its relationship to obedience to God, justification and Christ's immense and unfathomable sacrifice.

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