

## Spiritual Growth Questions for January 14, 2023

- **Read Romans 1:2.** Paul tells the gospel of God is promised. Have group members look up **Genesis 3:15, Numbers 24:17, Deuteronomy 18:15, Isaiah 7:14, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Malachi 3:1-John the Baptist.** Discuss how you see Jesus fulfilling these prophecies? Paul is declaring good news that was promised long ago and now has changed everything. Why do you think there was a delay between these promises and their fulfillment? *How can knowing these truths have been fulfilled build your faith?*
- **Read II Peter 1:16-21.** Why is understanding that the Bible is no ordinary book a key to building a strong faith? What evidence does the apostle Peter give about the inspiration and revelation of the Scriptures? Describe what Jesus did with the disciples in **Luke 24:44-45.** *What happens when our minds are opened to the great truths of the Scriptures?* (Pray Eph.1:18 & 2Cor.3:15-16) What has helped you to keep receiving God's Word and being open to it?
- **Read Romans 1:3, 2 Samuel 7:12-13.** focus on the phrase "descended from David according to the flesh." What is significant about the kingdom promised to David? Why did Jesus need to have a real human body? How does **I John 4:2-3** add to this discussion? Discuss a response to "Jesus only seemed to have a real body."
- **Read Romans 1:4. Acts 26:22-23.** Focus on the phrase declared the Son of God in power. *How does this declaration of Jesus as our Messiah/the Risen Christ strengthen our faith?* Why should the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies be a part of our faith confession? Why was it important for Paul to show the connection between the OT and what he was preaching? (Acts 17:18 "What does this babbling want to say") How would you advise someone to tap into the resurrection power when they are weak? (2 Cor.13:4)
- **Read Romans 1:4, 1:7, 5:1,11, 21, 6:23, 7:25, 8:39, 15:6, 30, 16:20.** Assign a verse to each member to read and describe how Paul declares Jesus Christ as Lord. How would this belief be contrary to the Romans emperors? How is it contrary in our culture? *Why is this belief and declaration vital to a strong faith?* What do you think confessing with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord means? Can Jesus be your Savior without being your Lord?
- **Read Romans 1:5, 16:26, Colossians 2:6.** Obedience brings out the whole idea of committal and submission. *How could doing everything for his name sake strengthen your faith?* His desire is that this would happen in all the nations. *How could a focus on all nations*

## Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans Foundational Truths That Build a Strong Faith Romans 1:2-5 January 14, 2024 Pastor John Lloyd

As we begin 2024, I can't think of a more important asset than a "strong faith" relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, "The righteous shall live by faith." The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. "Romans is a feast for one's soul." There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way? Today, we will look at foundational truths that if embraced produce a strong faith. Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,** 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, 7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Why Study Romans?** Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Big Idea: Strong Faith Truths (SFT) strengthen and establish my faith.  
Grow my faith in God more in 2024!**

• Strong Faith Truth: Jesus' life, death and resurrection \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ about a crucified & risen Messiah.

Something that was hidden is now revealed. Same method he has always used. He would need to use the Jewish Scriptures to prove this.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, Genesis 3:15 ,12:1-3 Luke 24:44 (GG question 1)

Romans 16:25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith (Paul wanted the Romans to see the vital importance of Scriptures)

Why the delay between the garden of Eden and Jesus fulfillment (4000yrs.)? What should you do when you are in a delay? (Gal. 4:4, Ps.37, Rom. 11:33)

Four symphonies: Romans 1-4, Romans 5-8, Romans 9-11, Romans 12-16

Romans 1:3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh (Genesis 49:10, Numbers 24:17)

2 Samuel 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 2 Tim.2:8

"The good news has actually got long roots. This news begins with God and not us." NT Wright

The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament. **The new fulfills the old.**  
The Gospel is a **proclamation about God and our relationship to God.**

II. SFT: The resurrection is God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ is His Son.

Romans 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, (Psalm 16 & 22, Zechariah 12:10 pierced, grave -Isaiah 53:9)

Yes, Jesus was executed as Messianic pretender, but He really is Messiah.

Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, Acts 17:3 "explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

2 Pet 1:19- "Prophetic word more fully confirmed to which you would do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place."(public not private)1:21 *Religio illicita vs religio licita*-(GG 4)

1:4 Declared to be the Son of God in power-

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him and the power of his resurrection...  
Jer.32:17 "O" too hard for God. Acts 1:8 you shall receive power-witness

*According to the Spirit of holiness-*

(1 Pet.3:18 being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit) Rom.8:11

Acts 26:23 That Christ must suffer and that being the "first" to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light to both our people and to the Gentiles." Col.1:18

**I publicly declare Jesus Christ lived, died and was raised to save me.  
Grow my faith in God more in 2024.**

III. SFT: I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_. I will obey & glorify Him.

Romans 1:4b Jesus Christ our Lord  
World sees Jesus as just a human... "through its wisdom still doesn't see it."  
Jesus purchased us. He belongs to us and us to Him. (Son of God/Son of Man)

Romans 1:5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations  
"Only by grace" could Paul say this because he was so unworthy.

Colossians 2:6 as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him

"*obedience of faith*"- (define sin as a refusal to listen to God's voice so that sin is primarily disobedience) (See question 6)

I turn away from my sin and I turn to God with grateful thanks, because of what Jesus has done for me. I pray that this would happen not just w/me but among all the nations. I want the whole world to fall at his feet. (Echoes Psalm 2:8)

*For the sake of his name-*

Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they may obtain salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. John 17:5-6, Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:10-11

We glorify God by desiring all to come to Him and by desiring all to praise Him.

**How could my faith be strengthened if everything I did was for His name's sake? I publicly declare that Jesus Christ is Lord! He is Lord of me!**

**Our prayer:** O Jesus Christ, grow thou in me  
And all things else recede. Johann Caspar Lavater  
**Grow my faith in God more in 2024.**