

**Romans – Crown Jewel of Salvation**  
**11 - Faith in Christ Changes Your Relationship with God**  
**Romans 5:1-2**  
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

Changes that take place in your life when you become a Christian.

**I. You Have Peace with God Now ~ whereas before you were at war!**

**Romans 5:1** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

**A. Notice this peace is not in the future – it starts the moment you trust in Christ**

This is a big deal because the unbeliever cannot experience this genuine peace of God.

**Isaiah 57:20-21** “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.”

"The science to which I pinned my faith is bankrupt... I believed them once. In their name I helped to destroy the faith of millions. And now they look at me and witness the great tragedy of an atheist who has lost his faith." – **George Bernard Shaw**

Once you’ve been justified by faith in Christ Jesus, there’s no more wrath of God against you!

**B. It’s Only through Christ!**

No one else could appease the wrath of God that was against us. No one else could offer the perfect, all sufficient sacrifice, once and for all.

**II. You Have Direct Access to God ~ whereas before you were shut out!**

**Romans 5:2** “Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...”

- **The Romans understood this word - access.** You didn't just walk into Caesar's palace and have an impromptu meeting with him. Only a few close people around him could get to him.

- **The Jews understood this very well.** In the Old Testament, the Jews didn’t have access to God. The veil in the Temple was a *constant reminder* that they were separated from God. They had to go through a priest to get access to God.

But all that changed on the cross at Calvary!

**Matthew 27:45-46, 50-51** “Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?’... v. 50 Jesus, when He had cried out again with a loud voice, yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil (NIV says ‘at that moment’) of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...”

When Jesus Christ died He broke down the barrier between God and man once and for all! That’s why Jesus is the only way to God... not just one of the ways. He is THE way. Only through His sacrifice and blood can anyone get access to God.

**When Jesus died the curtain in the Temple was torn** from top to bottom. God tore the Temple curtain to show that the barrier was broken down.

- You don't have to go through a priest.
- You don't have to offer a sacrifice.
- You don't have to travel to Jerusalem or Mecca or any special place.
- You can talk to God directly. You have 24-hour access to God – through His Son Jesus Christ!

**Hebrews 4:14-16** "Therefore since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus Christ the son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness but we have one who has been tempted in every way just as we are yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

**Ephesians 3:11-12** "According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him."

Jesus Christ has given us ACCESS to the God of the universe – something that we DID NOT HAVE – and could not get on our own.

v. 1 We are justified by faith

v. 2 We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand

We now live in the sphere and power of His grace that keeps us standing!

**Romans 5:21** "So that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Whereas sin used to REIGN in your life... now grace reigns!

### III. You've Got Hope ~ whereas before you were hopeless!

**Romans 5:2** "... and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

In the Bible, 'hope' is a confident expectation of future blessing based on the character and promises of God.

**Bertrand Russell** was an outspoken atheist and antagonist of Christianity, and he affirmed that his life was built on the foundation of unyielding despair. That's probably why he issued a joint statement with Albert Einstein, just two days before Einstein's death, confessing that "those of us who know the most are the gloomiest about the future."

**2 Timothy 3:7** "Always learning, yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

A vibrant and growing biblical theology – understanding more and more of who God and what He promises – THAT'S what breeds hope and feeds hope!

**1 Peter 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

You are saved by faith alone that ushers you into a peace with God, access to God, and a hope in God that the world doesn't know the first thing about.

**Job 8:11-15** “Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds thrive without water? While still growing and uncut, they wither more quickly than grass. Such is the destiny of all who forget God; **so perishes the hope of the godless**. What he trusts in is fragile; what he relies on is a spider’s web. He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold.”

**Ephesians 2:11-12** “Remember that you... were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope**, and without God in the world.”