



Summer School: Week 3 — “Justification by Faith”

CONNECT: Share a time when you had to put your faith in someone else. What did you learn from the experience?

GROW:

1. **Read Galatians 3:1-9.** The word “faith” is repeated multiple times in this passage (and throughout this chapter). How would you define “faith” in your own words? How does your definition of faith compare to the author’s definition in **Hebrews 11:1**?
2. **Read Galatians 3:10-14.** Scott mentioned that the power of faith has everything to do with the power of the Person we put our faith in. Why is it futile to put our faith in the law or our own works? How does putting our faith in Jesus change our relationship with the law?
3. **Read Galatians 3:15-22.** In this passage, Paul describes the purpose of the law. Essentially, the law is like a mirror in that it’s able to reveal our faults; however, a mirror can’t fix them. What area(s) in your life are you most tempted to fix things under your own strength?
4. **Read Galatians 3:23-29.** Paul is not suggesting these distinctions no longer exist. Despite our differences, we are all unified in Jesus. How should this reality regarding our vertical relationship with God impact our horizontal relationship with others?
5. **Read James 2:14-26.** Some scholars argue that Paul and James are at odds regarding the relationship between faith and works. On the contrary, both men are in agreement that obedience follows belief. How have you seen this come to fruition in your walk with Jesus? When do you tend to struggle with obedience?

PRAY: Read, pray, and meditate on **2 Corinthians 5:7**. Depending on the translation, this verse might read “*live by faith*” or “*walk by faith*,” both implying an action. Ask God to give you the strength and courage to take your next step in obedience by trusting Him.

NEXT: At Southland, we aim to live our lives *with Jesus, in community, and on mission*, which is a biblical concept that we like to call the Triangle. Consider taking your next step in one of those three areas: e.g., being [baptized](#) (With Jesus), signing up to [join a group](#) (In Community), or [volunteering](#) to serve in one of our ministry areas (On Mission).