

STANDING IN THE SHAKING

The Certainty of Justification by Faith

"I write these things to you ... so that you may know that you have eternal life." — 1 John 5:13

I. THE IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD

What Does "Justified" Mean?

To be justified means "to be made righteous." But righteousness is defined by the Law. Therefore, to be justified means to be made obedient to the Law of God in order to stand in the judgment.

The Problem:

1. The Standard: "Whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles at just one point, is guilty of all of it" (James 2:10).

2. The Reality: We have all sinned. The Law acts as a mirror—it reveals our dirt, but it cannot clean us.

3. The Verdict: By observing the law, no one will be justified.

II. THE DIVINE TRANSACTION

2 Corinthians 5:21

If we must be perfect to stand, but cannot be perfect by our own works, how are we saved? God devised a "Great Exchange."

Jesus (The Sinless One)	The Sinner (Us)
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Took our Guilt	Takes His Innocence
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Became "Sin"	Becomes "Righteousness"
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Died our Death	Lives His Life
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"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

This is the only righteousness that survives the Shaking: **Christ's character standing in the place of your character.**

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

If you lack assurance, pray this based on God's Promise: "Lord Jesus, I cannot be good enough to stand on my own. I accept Your free gift of eternal life. I exchange my filthy rags for Your robe of righteousness. I believe You, not because I feel it, but because You promised. Amen."

III. THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Do You Feel It, or Do You Know It?

Many fear the Shaking because they rely on their feelings for assurance. But feelings are like a roller coaster.

The Marriage Analogy

A couple is not married because they feel love or do kind things.

They are married because they made a commitment (Vows).

The Application: You do not wait to feel saved. You stand on the Promise of God. If you open the door, He will come in (Rev 3:20).

IV. THE VISUAL ANCHOR: ZECHARIAH 3 From Filthy Rags to Rich Robes

The Scene: Joshua stands before God in "filthy clothes" (our best works). Satan accuses him. The Verdict: God does not defend Joshua's clothes. He commands them to be removed.

"See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." (Zech 3:4).

The Takeaway: We present Christ's perfect life to the Father. It is credited to our account. This is the only way to stand when the earth shakes.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

For Small Groups & Personal Reflection

Objective: To move the group from “hoping” they are saved to “knowing” they are saved by understanding the transaction of the Cross and the nature of biblical assurance..

1. ICEBREAKER: THE MARRIAGE VOW

The Concept: The salvation is compared to marriage. A couple knows they are married not because they feel romantic every day, but because they made a commitment before witnesses.

Ask: Why is it dangerous for a married couple to question their marriage every time they have a bad day or don't “feel” in love? How does this relate to our relationship with God when we have a “bad spiritual day”?

3. THE “GREAT EXCHANGE”

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21.

The Deep Dive: Remember that Jesus didn't just die for us; He was “made to be sin”. He felt the guilt, shame, and separation of the sins of the world.

Reflect: In exchange, we become the “righteousness of God.” This means we don't just get a blank slate; we get credit for living Jesus' perfect life.

Question: Why is it so hard for us to accept that God treats us exactly as He treats Jesus, even though we know we are flawed?

5. THE COURTROOM SCENE (ZECHARIAH 3)

Read: Zechariah 3:1–5.

Visualizing: Imagine standing there in “filthy clothes” (your best works) while Satan points out every flaw.

The Verdict: God does not argue that Joshua is clean. He admits Joshua is dirty but provides a change of raiment.

Discuss: How does this scene help you deal with the “accuser” (Satan) when he reminds you of your past sins?

2. THE IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD

Read: James 2:10 and Matthew 5:48.

The Problem: The justification can be defined as being “made obedient to the commandments of God in order to stand in the judgment”. It further states that stumbling at just one point makes us guilty of all.

Discuss: When you hear that God demands “perfect obedience” to the Law, what is your immediate internal reaction? (Fear? Hopelessness? Determination?)

The Shift: How does the “Good News” change if we realize the law is a mirror to show us dirt, not a soap to clean us?

4. FEELINGS VS. PROMISES

The Story: There was a young man who was waiting to “feel” the Holy Spirit before going forward.

Key Quote: “Do not wait to feel that you are made whole, but say, ‘I believe it; it is so, not because I feel it, but because God has promised’”.

Application: Are you currently waiting for a specific “feeling” to confirm your standing with God? What specific promise can you stand on instead? (e.g., Revelation 3:20, 1 John 5:13).

REFLECTION NOTES



PRAYER FOCUS

For Certainty: Pray against the spirit of doubt. Claim the promise of 1 John 5:13—that we may know we have eternal life.

For the Exchange: Thank Jesus for taking the “guilt” and “shame” so we don't have to carry it anymore.

For Commitment: Pray the prayer of commitment together: “Lord, I open the door. I believe You are in my life not because I feel it, but because You promised.”