

1 **Habakkuk 2:4 explains that the righteous live by their faith.** Can you define the key terms “righteous” and “faith” in the passage?

 What evidence displays a person's true faith?

 How does one become righteous (Isaiah 53:11; Rom. 3:21-24; Gal. 3:10-14)?

2 **Read Galatians 3:6-9.** According to that passage, how did Abraham become right with God? In other words, what evidence resulted in God's verdict declaring Abraham righteous?

 How was this a model for the Galatians – people who were non-Jewish, living 1500 years after Abraham? How did this undermine the Judaizers' argument?

 What difference does it make when you base your relationship with God upon how well you keep a list of rules, rather than living in light of the truth that God accepts you through faith?

 Examine your motives this past week. Why was it that you did (or didn't do) certain things? Were you trying to earn or retain God's approval, or were you living in light of the fact that you have been freely accepted by grace through faith?

3 **Faith cannot be equated with a work that renders one righteous before God.** Instead, faith justifies because it unites one with Christ who is the righteousness of believers. Faith is fundamentally receptive and depends on Christ.

 Why is it important to say that faith is not our righteousness? If it were, what would we be inclined to do (Hint – Eph. 2:9; Rom. 4:1-5)
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 What do the following verses contribute to the conclusion that faith is not a work (1Cor. 12:9; Rom. 3:27-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9)?

 We know from everyday life that faith honors the one who is trusted. If you trust your mechanic, you honor his integrity. If your coach calls a play and you make a scene in front of the crowd so that it is evident that you think the coach's play call is ridiculous, you dishonor your coach. If your doctor diagnoses you with a disease and prescribes medicine, you call into question the doctor's competence if you fail to follow his advice. Faith honors God because it considers him to be trustworthy. Have you ever considered that your faith in God is an act of honor and worship? What are some practical ways you could express faith in God and thereby honor him?

