

# Living on the Right Side of the But

## The New Covenant believer is called to live BY FAITH

- Without faith it is impossible to please God

*Hebrews 11:6. But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

- Whatever is not faith is sin

*Romans 14:23. for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

- The just shall live by faith

*Romans 1:17....as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

*Galatians 3:11. ...for “the just shall live by faith.”*

*Hebrews 10:38. Now the just shall live by faith*

*Hebrews 11:1-2. **Now faith is** the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*

*Now faith is – faith is now – not yesterday – not tomorrow – NOW!*

- Hebrews 11 – ‘by faith...’ Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac...
- Not by long prayers, PHD’s, years of service, fine oratory, musical abilities, years of service, skills or expertise, etc – BY FAITH!
- The Elders obtained a good report because of their ‘faith’

*Faith is a **now** thing*

## 1. Where are we living?

### a) By sense evidence or by the evidence of God’s word?

*Are you living on the left or the right hand side of the but?*

- Sin conscious, fear conscious, guilt conscious, helpless conscious, etc.

*Do we see ourselves as ‘sinners saved by grace’, or ‘saints who were sinners and are now children of Almighty God in whom Christ lives by His resurrection power’?*

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. **But** you were washed, **but** you were sanctified, **but** you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

**b) Faith operates on the right side of the but**

- On the left side of the but is before we were born again
- On the right side of the but is the new creation

**c) Faith operates on the resurrection side of the cross**

- The natural man is on the left side of the but

**2. Faith is in the now**

*Hebrews 11:1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Faith is always on the right side of the but*

**a) But now – righteousness is revealed**

*Romans 3:20-23....for by the law is the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> **But now** the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed,*

- Faith operates on the right side of the but

*A lot of people say, ‘I know God can, but...’ - and revert to natural thinking – to the left side of the but...*

## **b) But now – having been set free from sin**

*Romans 6:22-23.. **But now** having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, **but** the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- **On which side of the but are we living?**

## **c) But now - we have been delivered from the law**

*Romans 7:5-6. For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. <sup>6</sup> **But now** we have been delivered from the law, Fear and condemnation operate on the left side of the but*

- **Faith operates on the right side of the but**

### **3. The left and right side of the but**

*Ephesians 2:1-6. And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. <sup>4</sup> **But** God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

**We were dead in trespasses & sin, but, we have been made alive and are now seated with Christ - on the right side of the but!**

*Ephesians 2:11-14. Therefore remember.... that at that time 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. <sup>13</sup> **But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ...*

We were far off **but now** we have now been brought near... – to the right side of the but!

#### 4. We can live on the right side of the but

*Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, **but** Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

*Galatians 2:20. (KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but** Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

□ ‘...I live **by** the **faith of** the **Son of God**...’

*I no longer live – but – Christ lives in me*

#### 5. Living on the right side of the but

*1 Corinthians 1:26-31. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. <sup>27</sup> **But God** has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>30</sup> **But of Him** you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—<sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” (NKJV).*

#### **Note the Amplified...**

*1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Just look at your own calling, believers; not many [of you were considered] wise according to human standards, not many powerful or influential, not many of high and noble birth. <sup>27</sup> **But God** has selected [for His purpose] the foolish things of the world to shame the*

wise [revealing their ignorance], and God has selected [for His purpose] the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong [revealing their frailty].<sup>28</sup> God has selected [for His purpose] the insignificant (base) things of the world, and the things that are despised and treated with contempt, [even] the things that are nothing, so that He might reduce to nothing the things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that no one may [be able to] boast in the presence of God.<sup>30</sup> **But it is from Him** that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God [revealing His plan of salvation], and righteousness [making us acceptable to God], and sanctification [making us holy and setting us apart for God], and redemption [providing our ransom from the penalty for sin],<sup>31</sup> so then, as it is written [in Scripture], “He who boasts and glories, let him boast and glory in the Lord.” (AMP)

□ **But – it is from Him that you are in Christ...**

- **Who has become to us wisdom**
- **Who has become to us righteousness**
- **Who has become to us sanctification**
- **Who has become to us redemption**

□ **Faith cannot operate on the left side of the but**

□ **Faith will only operate on the right side of the but!**

*I was a sinner, but now, I am a saint – on the right side of the but...*

**“Let us live on the right side of the but!”**

**‘But God’ scriptures...**

*Genesis 8:1, Genesis 31:7, Genesis 48:21, Genesis 50:20, Psalm 49:14-15, Psalm 73:26, Jonah 2:6, Matthew 19:26, Acts 2:24, Acts 3:5, Acts 7:9, Acts 13:29-30, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 3:6, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Galatians 3:18, 2 Timothy 2:9*