

# *Know the God of Scripture*

Volume 1

(revised 10/09/2024)

## **Week 45: Simple Faith - Answer Guide**

*Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.*

**1.** Over 50 times the Old Testament is quoted by Paul to reveal the prophesied Messiah, Jesus, to Jews who knew the Scriptures. In quoting the Old Testament, Paul reveals that ALL people are sinners, not just Gentiles, that all are saved by grace through faith alone, and that redemption is offered to Jew and Gentile alike. Throughout all of Paul's missionary journeys he employed the Old Testament to show his audience, especially his Jewish audience, that the Messiah prophesied in it was Jesus. It was his trademark.

**2.** In Romans 1:17 Paul quotes from Habakkuk 2:4. In reading that passage Luther realized the underlying theme for Romans was justification by faith and faith alone. There was no more "trying" to be righteous, for faith activates Christ's righteousness for believers. Works are produced by faith. One is NOT saved by deeds, but by grace through faith in Jesus.

**3.** T.U.L.I.P. is an acronym that supports Calvinism, the beliefs put forth by John Calvin in the 1500's. Its counterpart is Armenianism. These two beliefs are highly controversial and divisive in the church today. Please do not allow this short explanation of Calvinism spur any division among your Bible study group. It is meant simply to show how Calvinist use Romans to support their view. Note that the author does NOT subscribe to this belief, but is only offering an explanation that Calvinists use Romans to support what they believe.

**Total Depravity: (Romans 3:23)** Everyone born of flesh is depraved because of their inherited sin nature and deserving death.

**Unconditional Election: (Romans 9)** The act of God before creation to predestine His elect to salvation.

**Limited Atonement: (Romans 8:28-33)** The belief that Jesus died only for the elect. Most verses that Calvinist use to support this are found in other books (Matthew 1:21; John 10:15; Ephesians 1:4).

**Irresistible Grace: (Romans 5:8; 11:6)** Saving grace of God is effectually applied to God's elect that overcomes their resistance to obeying the call of the gospel.

**Perserverance of the Saints: (Romans 8:38-39; 11:29)** Once believers have committed their lives to Christ they cannot lose their salvation.

**4.** Often called the Roman Road, the following verses have been used by many faithful to share the Gospel and lead people to Jesus.

**Romans 3:23** All have sinned and are in need of a Savior

**Romans 6:23** The cost of depravity is death. Grace of God is FREE and is the path to salvation

**Romans 5:8** Cost of redemption is the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus; Agape love demonstrated

**Romans 10:9-10** The "key" to the door of salvation is Confession (Deuteronomy 30:14) and Belief

5. It is related to Galatians 5:16, “Walk in the Spirit and you will not carry out the deeds of the flesh.” Paul describes an ongoing conflict between the two natures (flesh and spirit). Naturally, the flesh desires that which opposes the will of God. Because of this depraved nature, he recognizes his need to be saved from it. Only Christ can save such a depraved person. The first step to salvation is knowing your depraved condition and the only way to be healed is through accepting Christ as your Savior.

6. Therefore, refers to conflict in the two natures. In Hebrew condemnation is “katakrima” which means “punishment.” It encourages us that although we battle the flesh daily, we have won the ultimate war because Christ Jesus justifies us, declares us righteous as we stand in His grace. The Holy Spirit, mentioned 18 times in chapter 8, reveals His role in our lives. Christians are not condemned because they have been redeemed by Jesus and are clothed in righteousness before the Father.

7. Your body is the Temple of God housing the Holy Spirit at work transforming you from the inside out. Starve the flesh by denying its desires to sin and feed your spirit with the Word of God. Feed the mind the Word of God so as to allow the Holy Spirit to work good in you. Your body is the vehicle of expression God uses to glorify Himself. You are to offer up your entire life, body, spirit, soul, to sacred service to the Lord Jesus Christ. Reading God’s Word has a transforming effect on you that will lead you to do His will.

8. Answers will vary depending on personal experience. Many of the changes you will experience are fruits of the Spirit of God.

9. Paul lists 26 people in total. Some of the most prominent are Phoebe, a deaconess from Cenchraea, a port near Corinth. Prisca & Aquila (2 Timothy 4:19) who rescued Paul in Ephesus. Rufus son of Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15:21). Lucius, in verse 21, was a long time friend of Paul’s from Antioch (Acts 13:1). Is Jason, from Acts 17:5, the one whose house was attacked in Ephesus? Gaius was an old friend from Galatia. Erastus was the city treasurer from Corinth. Aristobulus may have been the grandson to Herod the Great. Herodian was a slave in Herod’s court.

10. Even though we may not agree with the platform of some of our governing officials, we are still placed under their rule. We should abide by their rule up until their mandates cross our moral compass laid out in Scripture. An example could be the topic of abortion. We must remember we live by the Spirit and not by flesh.

### **Additional Questions:**

1. As mentioned above, we need to feed the Spirit by immersing ourselves in God’s Word, hanging around faithful encouragers, praying fervently and faithfully and seeking God’s will every day in our lives.

2. By memorizing the four steps of the Roman Road outlined in question #4. These steps highlight the fact that man is deprived of good, unable to save himself and without salvation is headed straight to eternal damnation and separation from God. God, in His infinite mercy and love, offers a way to salvation through His Son’s death, burial and resurrection. This offer is the supreme act of grace and can only be accepted through faith of the believer.

3. Garbage in, garbage out. Although that is a computer term for good and bad programming, it is fitting for what goes into our mind and shapes our actions. In essence, our mind is the battleground between good and bad. Combined with the indwelling Holy Spirit and reading, meditating and praying God’s Word, one can be “transformed” by renewing their minds and be armed to fight spiritual battles in their life. Refer to the application for this lesson.

