

Personal Outcomes of Justification by Faith: God's Love Poured In To Our Hearts
Romans 5:5

Romans 5:5 (ESV) and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

The apostle Paul, inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit to offer anyone who will listen the word of God Himself this to say to us: God's right and reasonable wrath, the full expression of His justice and holiness and righteousness is coming on all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, BUT, when someone, anyone, puts their faith in Jesus, God applies to them the righteousness of Jesus and removes His wrath from them. That action of God, to forgive sin and guilt and remove wrath when a person believes in Christ and trusts Him as their Savior is called justification by faith.

Paul says, *[Righteousness] will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* Isn't that amazing! Isn't that incredible! Isn't that wonderful and glorious! God sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross to die in your place and in my place and when we believe and trust Him, God treats us as righteous rather than unrighteous, as forgiven rather than guilty, as worthy of life rather than worthy of death.

I mean, that's what the resurrection of Jesus declares. Jesus was worthy of life rather than worthy of death. He was innocent not guilty. He was righteous not unrighteous. So what He deserved He got, life! And Paul tells us that when we put our faith in Christ and trust God to keep His promise and forgive us on account of Christ, God counts us, on the basis of faith, as worthy of life!

Hallelujah! Praise God! Glory be to our God and Father and to the Lord Jesus Christ! Through no merit of my own but by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone I am forgiven of sin, the wrath of God is removed from me, and I gain from Him eternal life forever in the presence of His glory!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

But that's not all! If you were ever to join us as a volunteer at Oddz & Endz you would likely experience the Christmas Everyday phenomenon. Volunteers who process donations will tell you, it is very like Christmas every day. Huge boxes and huge numbers of boxes come in day after day. Day after day you open boxes that have been sealed and to your surprise and wonder and joy you reveal treasures and gifts galore. And there are always more coming. Every car and truck is like Santa's sleigh bringing more boxes and more gifts. No matter how good the day has been, it's not all. There's more!

In justification by faith, God removes His wrath from us and imputes the righteousness of Christ to us. He reconciles us to Himself and removes His justice, but that's not all. Paul tells us here in the opening verses of Romans 5 that there is more.

Romans 5:1-5 (ESV) ¹ *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* ² *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* ³ *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,* ⁴ *and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,* ⁵ *and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Six Personal Outcomes to Justification by Faith

1. Peace with God
2. Standing Grace
3. Hope of the Glory
4. A Changed Perspective
5. God's Love Poured In To Our Hearts
6. Holy Spirit Give to Us

We come this morning to the fifth outcome of justification by faith, the fifth personal, spiritual, gracious benefit God offers those who put their faith in Jesus and trust Him with their lives: God's love is poured into our hearts.

A Coffee Cup and the Love of God

You have in your hands a common, familiar object. If I asked you to describe it you would likely start by saying it is a disposable, styrofoam coffee cup. You might go on to describe it as a 12 oz. cup with a molded rim around the outer edge. You might note that it is wider at the top than the bottom. You might see that it is white and not some other color. You might wonder, in the sense of good stewardship, why the cup isn't smaller to make the coffee go further (you know, more cups served per pot.)

But, the most important observation you can make about your cup this morning is that it is EMPTY. Now, let me remind you about coffee cups. They are designed, they are created to hold coffee. The entire reason for their existence is to be full of something besides themselves. And at this very moment, as you sit there and hold it in your hand, and wonder where this illustration is going, that coffee cup, as it remains empty, fails to meet the purpose for which it is created. An empty cup fails to fulfill its potential. An empty cup is a vessel that fails to fulfill the very reason for its existence.

An empty coffee cup needs to be filled. Not until it is filled with this simple vessel fulfill the reason for which it was created. And suddenly you realize you are not holding a simple coffee cup but a spiritual mirror. **Until you are filled with the Person and character of your Creator you are not reaching your potential or fulfilling the purpose for which you were created.**

When by faith alone in Christ alone you are justified by God through grace, God restores you to your purpose. When a person trusts Christ as their Savior and surrenders their life to Him that person is finally in a position to fulfill the purpose for which they were created. And

how does God do this, restore you to your purpose? He fills you with His love.

INSIGHTS

Let me point out a few things in this outcome Paul reveals.

1. God is love.

- a. God is love. So, when Paul tells us that God's love is poured into us we should understand that we are talking about more than simple experiencing a single attribute of God. God pours Himself, His essence, His being into us.
 - i. **1 John 4:8 (ESV)** *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
 - ii. **1 John 4:16 (ESV)** *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*
- b. Jesus
 - i. **John 14:16-17 (ESV)**¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*¹⁷ *even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
 - ii. **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV)**²⁶ *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*²⁷ *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
- c. When God fills a person with His love, He does more than simply let them know He loves them. He fills them with Himself.
 - i. One implication of being filled with God's love
 - ii. God does not abandon the work of His hands
 - (1) **Nehemiah 9:31 (ESV)** *Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.*
 - (2) **Psalms 138:8 (ESV)** *The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.*
 - (3) **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)** *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*
 - iii. Once God fills you with His love, He will never leave you or forsake you.

2. Poured Into means "infused."

- a. In some ways the coffee cup analogy reveals its limits at this point.
- b. "Poured into"
 - i. Means abundantly gushes to overflowing -
 - (1) not metered or restricted
 - (2) God does not hold back any essential of Himself the lack of which would condemn us
 - ii. Infused -

- (1) more like water into a sponge
- (2) Oxygen into living tissue
- iii. God saturates every aspect of your being
 - (1) Mind, heart, soul, body

HOW CAN WE BE FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE?

ASK

Ask. Jesus said,

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV))

Don't think that Jesus was just talking about stuff when he said, “good things.” What could be more gooder in the whole universe than God Himself and His love for us?!

“Ask,” Jesus says. Not, “negotiate a trade.” Not, “pay before fill,” like at the gas station, as if you have to meet some criteria of God's before you can receive from God. Ask, and it will be given to you. You cannot manufacture the love of God. You can't make yourself love like this. You can ask!

PRAYER

O Lord, glorious and holy, you created us for Yourself and for Your glory. You created us to be vessels full of love, full of God. We cannot fill ourselves any more than the coffee cups in our hands can walk themselves to the coffee pot and fill themselves up. We must be filled with You by You. So, here we are. God, you have shown your love for us in the cross of Jesus. Now, O God, fill us with your love. You have justified us by faith in Your Son. Now fill us with Yourself that we may know we are loved and our hope be certain and shameless. Do not let us leave this place empty, mere potential untapped and unproven. You have something for us. Please, O Lord, give us Your love, not merely as an experience—we are not asking you for a warm, fuzzy feeling but the reality of Christ in us, the Spirit in us, God in us for your glory and our good.

CLOSING HYMN

Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven, feed me til I want no more. Fill my cup, fill it up, and make me whole.