

## “The Just Shall Live by His Faith”

Ellet J. Waggoner (with additional comments)

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Obedience implies action; it is well doing when it is rendered to God. But what we wish to emphasize is, that there is no well doing except that which springs, not from the individual himself, but from his faith. A few texts of Scripture will serve to show this. Read first, Hab. 2:4. “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.”

A just man is one who acts in harmony with the law of God. Therefore a just man is an obedient man. So we may understand the text as saying that an obedient man shall live (a life of obedience) by his faith. **The obedience springs from his faith, and therefore there is no chance for him to be lifted up, since the act of obedience is not his personal action, but is the action of his faith, and credited to him as his own.** The man whose soul is lifted up in him, is the man who thinks that he can of himself do all that is required, and who as a consequence does nothing. Thus, “pride goes before destruction.” --Ellet J. Waggoner

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**Comments on “His Faith” by Daniel H. Peters:** “The just shall live by His faith” (Hab. 2:4). The phrase “His faith” refers to “the faith of Jesus.”

Jesus is the author and finisher of faith - faith originates with Him and there can be no other faith than His. (Heb. 12:2) There is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph. 5:4). This “one faith” is the faith of Jesus. It is dealt to each man as a gift. (Rom. 12:3). Faith is not a part of man’s natural equipment; this is why God deals the faith of Jesus to each one of us. If man had his own faith, there would be no need to give it to us. It is said to be “our faith” because of the location from which it is exercised - from within us.

The faith that “the just shall live by” is the very same faith that Jesus proved over and over again while on earth. It is tested, tried and true. It is strong and invincible. His faith has overcome and conquered all sin in our flesh - it is a victorious faith making the righteous requirements of the law to be fulfilled within us. (Rom. 8:3, 4). Galatians 5:6 says that it is “faith working through love” that accomplishes all things, not us. A man that says his faith is weak is like like the man who refuses to move and then complains that his muscles won’t support him. Muscles and faith are good, but neither one is of much help if not used.

So, when we read things like “your faith has made you whole,” we know that it was the faith of Jesus, exercised by and within the individual and counted as if it were their own.

It is the faith of Jesus that makes a man righteous by making him a doer of the law, and a new creation. Here is the patience of the saints who keep the commandments of God through the faith of Jesus. (Rev. 14:12).

The just shall live by the faith of Jesus! (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17). It is “one faith.” There is no other faith.

--Daniel H. Peters