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The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995). Scripture quotations are used by permission.

This guide is intended for personal Bible study, discipleship, teaching, and spiritual encouragement. It is designed as a biblical quick reference resource to help readers better understand God's Word and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not intended to replace personal Bible study, prayer, or active involvement in a Christ-centered local church.

Every effort has been made to present Scripture faithfully and accurately according to its historical and biblical context. Readers are encouraged to examine the Scriptures for themselves and allow the Holy Spirit to guide their understanding as they grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

“Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ.”

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

2 Peter 3:18



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

About This Series

The Saving and Transforming Work of God is a collection of quick reference guides designed to help believers understand the major works God accomplishes in the life of every follower of Jesus Christ. While each guide focuses on one essential biblical doctrine, together they present a unified picture of God's gracious work to save, justify, redeem, and continually transform His people into the likeness of His Son.

Although each guide may be read independently, they are designed to complement one another. Reading them in order—Salvation, Justification, Redemption, and Spiritual Formation—provides a clear progression through God's work of bringing sinners into a relationship with Himself and faithfully completing the work He begins in every believer.

This Series Includes

1. What God Says About Salvation
2. What God Says About Justification
3. What God Says About Redemption
4. What God Says About Spiritual Formation

Theme Scripture

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Romans 8:29

My prayer is that these guides will encourage you to open God's Word, deepen your understanding of biblical truth, strengthen your faith, and inspire you to walk more closely with Jesus Christ each day.



The Saving and Transforming Work of God

A Quick Reference Guide Series

What God Says About Justification

Understanding God's Declaration That Believers Are Righteous Through Faith in Jesus Christ

Theme Scripture

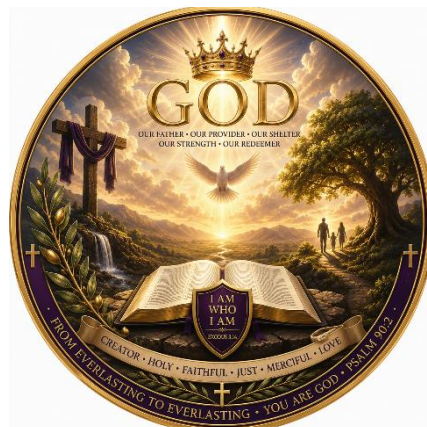
"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

Romans 5:1

What You Will Discover

Through this guide, you will discover:

- What the Bible teaches about justification.
- Why is every believer justified by faith rather than by work?
- How the righteousness of Jesus Christ is credited to those who believe.
- What it means to have peace with God through Christ.
- Why believers can live with confidence, knowing they are fully accepted by God because of Jesus.
- How the truth of justification strengthens your faith and transforms the way you live each day.



Introduction

One of the greatest truths revealed in the Bible is that sinners can stand before a holy God completely forgiven, fully accepted, and declared righteous—not because of anything they have done, but because of what Jesus Christ has done for them. This incredible truth is known as justification, and it is one of the foundational doctrines of the Christian faith.

Justification is God's gracious declaration that those who place their faith in Jesus Christ are counted as righteous because of Christ's perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection. Our sins were placed upon Jesus, and His righteousness is credited to us. Because of this great exchange, believers are no longer condemned but are welcomed into a right relationship with God and can live with the assurance of His acceptance.

Understanding justification is essential because it protects us from believing that we must earn God's favor through good works, religious performance, or personal effort. Instead, Scripture teaches that we are justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. This truth brings peace, freedom, confidence, and joy as we rest in the finished work of our Savior.

This quick reference guide has been designed to help you discover what God's Word teaches about justification by bringing together key Scriptures and foundational biblical truths in one place. Whether you are studying the Bible for personal growth, discipling others, preparing to teach, or simply seeking a deeper understanding of your faith, my prayer is that this guide will strengthen your confidence in God's grace and help you rejoice in the righteousness that is yours through Jesus Christ.

As you study these passages, take time to read each Scripture in its context, ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your understanding, and reflect on the wonderful assurance that comes from being declared righteous before God. May your study lead you to greater gratitude for Christ's finished work and a deeper desire to live faithfully for the One who has justified you by His grace.



Why Study Justification?

Justification is one of the most important truths of the Christian faith because it explains how sinful people can be made right with a holy God. Every person stands guilty before God because of sin, and no amount of good works, religious activity, or personal effort can remove that guilt. Yet through His grace, God has provided a way for sinners to be declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

Understanding justification gives believers confidence in their relationship with God. It reminds us that our acceptance before Him is not based on our performance but on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. Because Christ paid the penalty for our sins and fulfilled God's righteous standard, everyone who trusts in Him is forgiven, declared righteous, and welcomed into God's family.

Studying justification also protects us from two common errors. First, it keeps us from believing that we must earn God's love through good works. Second, it reminds us that genuine faith produces a life of grateful obedience—not to earn salvation, but because we have already been accepted by God through Christ.

A clear understanding of justification brings peace to troubled hearts. It assures believers that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and that they can approach God with confidence because they have been made right with Him. This assurance frees us to serve God with joy, gratitude, and love rather than fear or uncertainty.

As you study this guide, allow God's Word to strengthen your confidence in the finished work of Jesus Christ. May you rejoice in the truth that you have been justified by faith, clothed in Christ's righteousness, and forever accepted by God through His amazing grace.

What God Says About Justification

Definition

Justification is God's gracious act of declaring sinners righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not earned by human works but is received by grace through faith because of Christ's perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection. Through justification, believers are forgiven, clothed in Christ's righteousness, and restored to a right relationship with God.



Teaching	Primary Scripture	What God Is Teaching
Justified by Faith	Romans 3:21–28	God declares sinners righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, not by keeping the Law or performing good works.
Peace with God	Romans 5:1–2	Because we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Not by Works	Galatians 2:16	No one can be justified by works of the Law. Justification comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.
Christ's Righteousness	2 Corinthians 5:21	Jesus took our sin upon Himself so that believers might receive His righteousness before God.
No Condemnation	Romans 8:1	Those who belong to Jesus Christ are no longer under God's condemnation because they have been justified through Him.
Accepted by God	Ephesians 1:3–8	Through Christ, believers are fully accepted, forgiven, and blessed according to God's grace.

Understanding God's Gift of Justification

Justification is one of the greatest expressions of God's grace. It is the act by which God declares sinners righteous because of the finished work of Jesus Christ. This declaration is not based on our goodness, our religious efforts, or our ability to obey God's Law. Instead, it is based entirely on what Jesus accomplished through His perfect life, His sacrificial death on the cross, and His victorious resurrection.



Before coming to Christ, every person stands guilty before God because all have sinned and fall short of His perfect standard. Left on our own, we could never remove our guilt or earn God's acceptance. Yet in His great love and mercy, God provided the only way for us to be made right with Him. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins, credits Christ's righteousness to our account, and declares us righteous in His sight.

Justification is an immediate and complete work of God. It is not something believers gradually earn or achieve over time. The moment a person trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation, they are fully justified and accepted by God. Although believers continue to grow in holiness throughout their lives—a process known as spiritual formation or sanctification—their standing before God has already been settled because of Christ.

Understanding justification brings great assurance to the believer. We no longer have to live under the burden of guilt, fear, or uncertainty about whether we have done enough to please God. Because of Jesus, we have peace with God, confidence in His promises, and the assurance that we are fully accepted as His children.

Justification Reminds Us That:

- God alone is the One who justifies.
- We are justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Good works cannot earn God's acceptance.
- Jesus' righteousness is credited to every believer.
- Our sins are fully forgiven because of Christ's sacrifice.
- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.
- Justification gives us confidence to live faithfully for God out of gratitude, not to earn His love.

Justification is the foundation of a believer's assurance. Because God has declared us righteous through Jesus Christ, we can live each day with confidence, knowing that our acceptance before Him rests not on our performance but on the finished work of our Savior. This truth frees us to love God, serve others, and grow in our faith with joyful gratitude for His amazing grace.



What Justification Reveals About God

Justification reveals the heart and character of God. It shows that He is both perfectly holy and perfectly loving. Because God is just, He cannot ignore sin or overlook guilt. Yet because He is rich in mercy and abundant in grace, He provided His own Son to bear the penalty for our sins so that justice would be satisfied, and sinners could be declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

Through justification, we see that God never compromises His holiness, yet He freely offers forgiveness to all who trust in Christ. His plan of salvation demonstrates His perfect wisdom, His unwavering faithfulness, and His immeasurable love for humanity. Every aspect of justification points us to the greatness of God's character and His desire to restore people to Himself.

Justification Reveals That God Is:

- **Holy** — He is perfectly righteous and cannot overlook sin.
- **Just** — He judges sin fairly and upholds His perfect standard of righteousness.
- **Gracious** — He freely gives what we could never earn or deserve.
- **Merciful** — He withholds the judgment our sins deserve because of Christ.
- **Loving** — He demonstrated His love by providing His Son as the sacrifice for our **sins**.
- **Faithful** — He fulfills every promise He has made concerning salvation.
- **Righteous** — His judgments are always true, perfect, and without error.
- **Wise** — His plan of redemption perfectly satisfies both His justice and His mercy.
- **Forgiving** — Through Christ, He completely forgives those who place their faith in Him.

The doctrine of justification reminds us that God is not only the righteous Judge of all the earth but also the gracious Savior who delights in rescuing sinners. Because of His perfect character, believers can trust Him completely, rest in His promises, and rejoice that they have been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.



What Justification Means for the Believer

Justification is far more than a theological doctrine—it is a life-changing reality for every believer. The moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ, God declares us righteous because of Christ's finished work. Our relationship with God is restored, our guilt is removed, and we are welcomed into His family. This new standing before God becomes the foundation for a life of peace, assurance, gratitude, and faithful obedience.

Because our justification rests entirely on Jesus Christ, we no longer have to wonder whether we have done enough to earn God's acceptance. We can live with confidence, knowing that our standing before God is secure because it depends on His grace, not our performance. This assurance does not lead to complacency; instead, it inspires us to love God more deeply and to live in a way that honors Him.

Because We Have Been Justified:

- We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.
- Our sins have been completely forgiven.
- We are declared righteous in God's sight.
- We are no longer under God's condemnation.
- We are accepted because of Christ, not because of our own righteousness.
- We have confidence to approach God in prayer.
- We can rest in God's grace instead of striving to earn His favor.
- We are adopted into God's family as His children.
- We have the assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- We are called to live lives that reflect our gratitude for God's amazing grace.

Justification gives believers a firm foundation for the Christian life. No matter what trials, failures, or struggles we face, our confidence rests in the unchanging promise of God that we have been declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Because of His grace, we can walk forward each day with hope, joy, and assurance, knowing that our acceptance before God is secure in our Savior.



Living This Truth

Justification is not simply a doctrine to understand—it is a truth to embrace and live in every day. When we remember that God has declared us righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, we are freed from striving to earn His acceptance and can instead live with gratitude, confidence, and joyful obedience. Our identity is no longer defined by our past failures or personal achievements but by the righteousness of Christ that has been credited to us. Take time to reflect on what God's Word teaches about justification and allow these truths to shape your relationship with Him.

Questions for Personal Reflection

- Am I trusting completely in Jesus Christ for my righteousness, or am I relying on my own efforts?
- Do I truly believe that God has declared me righteous because of Christ's finished work?
- Am I living with the peace and assurance that comes from being justified by faith?
- When I fail, do I run toward God in repentance, trusting His grace, or do I allow guilt and shame to keep me from Him?
- Does my gratitude for God's grace motivate me to love Him and obey His Word?
- How can I encourage someone else who struggles with guilt, fear, or uncertainty about their standing before God?

Living Out the Truth

This week, choose one way to put this truth into practice:

- Thank God each day for declaring you righteous through Jesus Christ.
- Read Romans 3–5 and reflect on God's gift of justification.
- Memorize Romans 5:1 or Romans 8:1 as a reminder of your standing before God.
- When feelings of guilt or inadequacy arise, remind yourself of God's promises instead of relying on your emotions.
- Share with another believer how God's grace has given you peace and confidence through Jesus Christ.

As you continue your walk with Christ, remember that your relationship with God is built on His grace, not your performance. Because you have been justified by faith, you can live each day with confidence, knowing that you are fully forgiven, completely accepted, and forever secure in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.





A Prayer of Gratitude

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the incredible gift of justification through Your Son, Jesus Christ. I praise You because I could never earn Your acceptance or deserve Your grace, yet You have declared me righteous through faith in Christ. Thank You for forgiving my sins, removing my guilt, and clothing me in the righteousness of Jesus.

Thank You that I no longer stand condemned but have peace with You through my Lord and Savior. When I am tempted to rely on my own strength or become discouraged by my failures, remind me that my hope rests completely in the finished work of Christ. Help me to live each day with confidence, humility, and gratitude, knowing that my standing before You is secure because of Your amazing grace.

May the truth of justification fill my heart with peace, strengthen my faith, and inspire me to live a life that honors You. Let my words, my actions, and my testimony reflect the joy of being accepted as Your child through Jesus Christ.

Thank You for Your perfect justice, Your endless mercy, and Your unfailing love. All glory, honor, and praise belong to You alone.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen.





A Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

I lift up each person who has read this guide and ask that You would deepen their understanding of the wonderful gift of justification. Open their hearts to see that they are made right with You, not through their own efforts, but through the finished work of Jesus Christ. May they fully embrace the truth that they are justified by faith and clothed in the righteousness of Your Son. For those who struggle with guilt, fear, or feelings of unworthiness, replace their uncertainty with the peace and assurance that come from Your promises. Remind them that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus and that Your love for them is secure because of what Christ has accomplished on their behalf.

Strengthen their faith each day and help them to rest in Your grace rather than striving to earn Your acceptance. Let the confidence of being justified lead them to love You more deeply, trust You more completely, and faithfully follow Jesus in every area of their lives. As they continue to grow in their relationship with You, may the truth of justification become the firm foundation of their faith. Fill them with joy, peace, humility, and gratitude as they walk with You, knowing that they have been declared righteous through Jesus Christ alone.

May their lives become a testimony of Your amazing grace so that others may come to know the hope, forgiveness, and peace that are found in Christ.

I ask all these things in the powerful and precious name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Continue Your Journey

Understanding justification is another important step in discovering the depth of God's amazing grace. Through Jesus Christ, God has declared those who trust in Him to be righteous, not because of their own works, but because of Christ's perfect righteousness. This wonderful truth gives believers peace with God, confidence in His promises, and the assurance that they are fully accepted as His children. As you continue studying God's Word, you will discover that justification is part of God's greater work of salvation. The Bible also teaches about redemption—the price Jesus paid to set us free from the bondage and penalty of sin—and spiritual formation, God's ongoing work of transforming believers into the likeness of Christ. Together, these truths reveal the fullness of God's saving and transforming work in the life of every believer.

To continue growing in your understanding of God's Word, I encourage you to explore the other Bible Reference Guides and studies available throughout this ministry library.

Continue seeking the Lord with all your heart, studying His Word faithfully, and allowing His truth to shape your life. The more you know Him, the more you will understand His grace, trust His promises, and reflect the character of Jesus Christ in your daily walk.

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

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