

JUST

"Pastor, the Bible says that the just shall live by faith. What does it mean to be just?" The Amplified Translation of Romans 1:17 gives us some insight into the meaning of what it is to be just. It says, "***The man who through faith is just and upright shall live by faith.***" Notice, it's not everyone or anybody who is expected to live by faith, only the **just**! The English Dictionary tells us that being "just" is based on or behaving according to what is morally right and fair, and it implies *being equitable, impartial, unbiased, objective, unprejudiced, open-minded, and non-discriminatory*. On that definition alone, I'm sure we can all agree that the world needs more 'just' people. But from a Biblical standpoint we must behave according to what is "right" as revealed in God's Word. Therefore, to get a deeper insight into what it means to be "just" (in order to live by faith), we ought to examine our source - God Himself. We know that through faith in His Son Jesus we take on all God's divine attributes; and the Bible tells us that **God is just**. This means that He is always fair, unbiased and impartial. It also means that He hates the ill-treatment and oppression of people and of nature; which He created. He hates slandering, gossip and other forms of mistreatment of others. The fact that God is just means that He can and will judge between right and wrong and He will administer justice in accordance with His standards. God's ability to do this involves other aspects of His character; including His ability to discern the truth in every situation and see into the hearts and minds of men and women in establishing what is right and wrong.

When we are admonished to **live by faith** we must remember that the foundation upon which we do anything is love. True love is behaving toward others in complete harmony with the nature and character of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, every time we release the love of God (agape) we are being just. And as a result, we are able to **live by faith**. Romans 1:17 could read, "*The man who through faith conducts himself as Jesus conducted Himself, is just, and the just shall live by faith.*" Once you have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ He sees you as one of His children, so He wants you to be just and act justly. The prophet Micah summed this up nicely by saying, "***What does the Lord require of you, but to be just, love mercy and walk humbly before your God?***" (Micah 6:8). Repeatedly throughout the Bible, God warns His people to treat others fairly and impartially. The fact that God is just can also provide you with peace when you are dealing with difficulties in your life or witnessing painful injustice. You can be confident that God's justice will ultimately prevail. The fact that the all-powerful and all-knowing God is also just means that evil will ultimately be dealt with authoritatively and decisively. I pray that the light of God's love brightly illuminates your faith walk, and that His peace permeates into every adverse circumstance, and that His presence brings about victory.