

"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief." Proverbs 24:16 KJV

"There is none good, no, not one." The question then arises, "How is a man made just?" *"Therefore being justified BY FAITH, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Much more then, being now justified by His Blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."* I can't say it enough. Faith is the difference between eternal life and eternal death! Death is separation from life. The body is declared "dead," when life departs. We say, "The car died," when it no longer works. A movement or an organization "dies" when it no longer functions. *"Whosoever was NOT found written in the BOOK OF LIFE was cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second DEATH."* If you die without faith, you'll die again, forever! Faith is a gift. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: Faith cometh by hearing...the Word of God. Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him: for he that cometh to God MUST BELIEVE that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek (purposefully obey) Him."* Upon hearing the Word of God, the dead rise. Jesus said, *"I am the Truth...and the Life"* His Word raises the dead. *"Then said Jesus unto them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead.' And when He thus had spoken, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth!'* And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, *"Loose him, and let him go."* God's Word is the only communication that penetrates death's barrier. If you are a believer, God's Word has raised you from the death of sin. *"And you hath He quickened, (made alive) who were DEAD in trespasses and sins."* If received, God's Word brings life to the dead in trespasses and sin through the imparted gift of faith which is delivered thereby. *"As many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."* Death is separation from God, who is LIFE. It is not enough to just agree with God. For the dead to rise, for the lost to be saved, for the blind to see, God's Word must be preached and obeyed. Hearing is not enough. Forgetful hearers are damned. It is obedience that proves your faith. *"Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep (obey) His Commandments."* Swaying branches prove there is wind. If faith does not motivate obedience, it does not exist. *"Faith without works is dead."* If there is no heartbeat, there is no life. It is not the falling that damns a man. Even the just man falls, but it is the rising up again that proves the presence of saving faith. *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* The wicked do not rise up from falling. Jesus came to save and rescue the already fallen. It is not my falling that condemns me. It is my failing to *"rise up again,"* and I can only rise by faith! God parted the crimson sea of sin on Calvary for the deliverance of any who would walk through on the dry ground of faith. Faith enables you to *"rise up again."*

Mankind does not "become" condemned,
They are sinners from deep within,
The Word of God comes to a man,
And frees him from amongst the damned. ~CGP

It is the unfathomable miracle of the gift of faith, delivered to the condemned by *"the foolishness of preaching"* God's Word, that resurrects the *"dead in trespasses and sin!"*

"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;"
Hebrews 3:14 KJV

