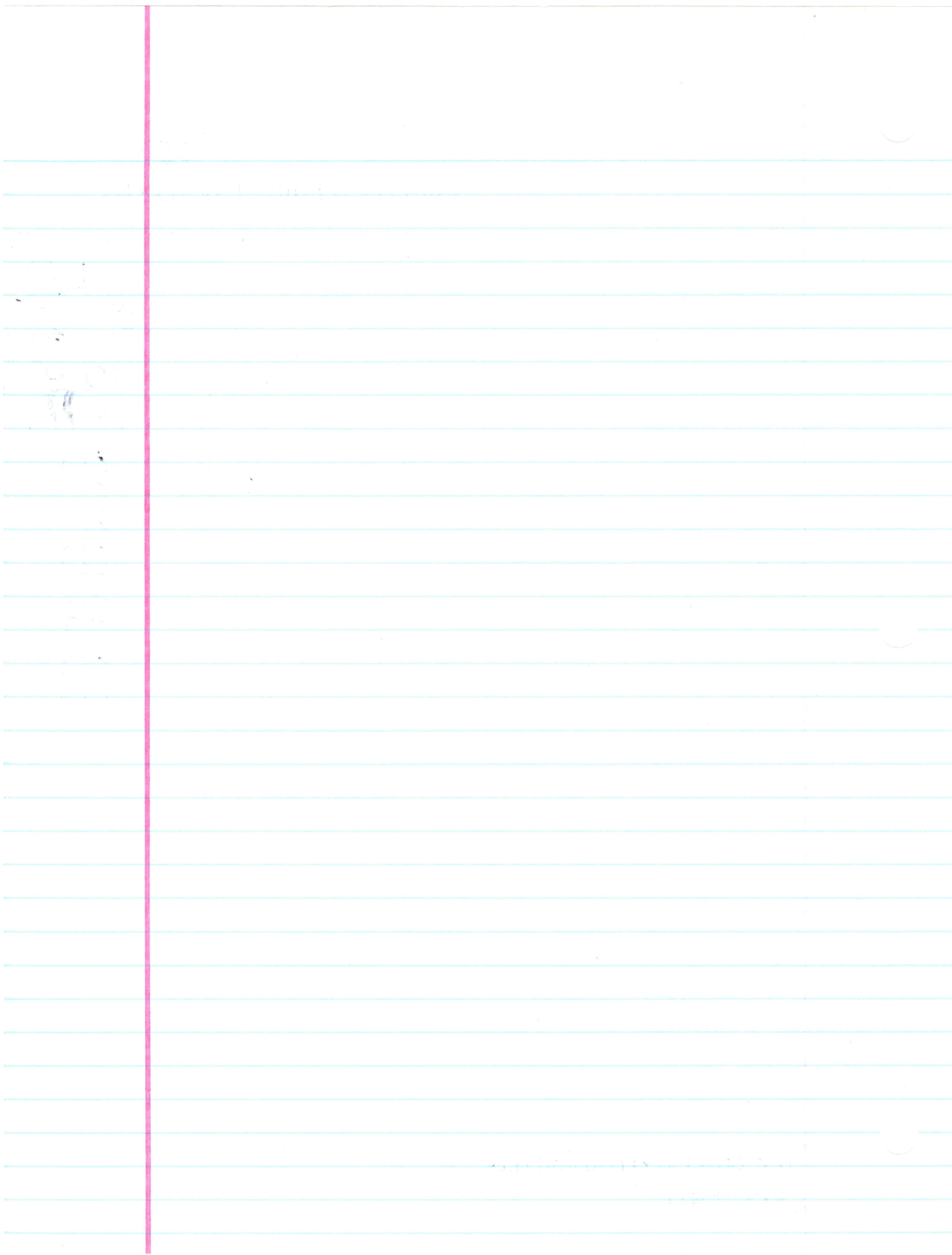


#25

Living By Faith, Not Works

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE
—Psalm 32:7—

The teaching ministry of
John Kerr



Jeremiah 31:31-34

Living By Faith, Not Works

Key Verse: Jer 31:33

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people."

- Jeremiah 31:33

Notice all of the things God says HE will do. There is very little in the Kingdom of God that is up to us, and what we do. Still, watch us try to live our Christian life. We put the weight of pleasing God on our shoulders, as though we have to BE good and DO good to please Him.

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away."

- Isaiah 64:6

Our very best, our righteousness, is filthy in God's sight. Even our Good is polluted by sin. There is NOTHING I can offer God that is perfect, but God cannot accept ANYTHING less than perfection.

Even our Good is polluted by sin!

So I have nothing to offer to God but what He gives me.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

- James 1:17

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwell-eth no good thing: for to will is present with me;

SONGS OF DELIVERANCE
- Psalm 32:7 -

but how to perform that which is good I find not."

- Romans 7:18 (KJV)

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

- Romans 8:8 (KJV)

"Yew, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in yew."

- Romans 8:9 (HCSB)

Under the Old Covenant Law, one thing was proven; that we are incapable of keeping God's law in our own strength. Look how many times God's people said, "All that thou sayest, we will do." (Josh 1:16, 17)

But they couldn't keep it.

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

- Galatians 3:24

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

- Romans 5:1

Our justification BEFORE God, our peace WITH God, and the faith to achieve them are all given to us BY God. (Eph 2:8,9)

"Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

- Romans 4:30; Galatians 3:6; Genesis 15:6

* Notice! God thought that was important. He repeated it three times! Watch this:

"The just shall live by faith."

- Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11

* It is equally important to God that we continue to LIVE by the faith that saved us.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." - Colossians 2:6 (KJV)

Living By Faith, Not Works

We are to walk — to live — the same way we received Jesus Christ, by faith. Nothing else will please God.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe Nothing else, BUT FAITH, will please God!"

that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

— Hebrews 11:6 (KJV) (see Jer 29:12, 13)

In order to please God, we must realize that the WORK is His, our part is faith — believe.

"For we are HIS WORKMANSHIP, (like fine furniture) created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

— Ephesians 2:10 (KJV) (emphasis, parenthesis mine)

Ok, let's look at that back to front:

— "God hath before ordained"

As any craftsman would, God laid out a blue-print in advance; a plan to bring us to walk in good works. That plan was what we read in Jer 31:33; to write His law in our hearts.

• How?

— "Created in Christ Jesus"

God's plan was for us to walk in good works the same way Jesus did. "Christ" means, "The Anointed One, and His anointing".

• What was His anointing?

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with THE HOLY GHOST and with power..."

- And what was the result of that anointing?
 "... who went about doing good, (Glory to God!)
 and healing all who were oppressed of the devil,
 for God was with Him."
 - Acts 10:38 (emphasis, parenthesis mine)

Jesus did His good works in the anointing of the Holy Spirit to demonstrate to us how we can do it. Then He left, so we could do greater works than He did. (John 14:12) We are not only empowered by the Spirit to be LIKE Jesus, we are empowered to EXCEED Him. He brought the Kingdom of God to a few people in about a 30-mile radius. We are to take the good news of forgiveness, blessing, healing, and deliverance to the whole world!

But ALL that we do, we do by allowing the Spirit of God to work in us by faith.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

- Philippians 2:13 (KJV)

"to will" - He makes you WANT to.

"to do" - He makes you ABLE to.

In it all, it is God's work, not ours. Because of that, it won't fail.

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

- Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

"We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit."

- 11 Corinthians 3:18 (HCSB)

Living By Faith, Not Works

So the Spirit of the LORD reveals the image of Jesus to us as though we are looking in a mirror, and then changes us to match that image. Once again, HE does it. We look. We seek. We believe. He changes us.

We look. "A new heart also will I give you,
We seek. and a new spirit will I put within
We believe. you: and I will take away the
He changes us. stony heart out of your flesh, and I
will give you an heart of flesh."

And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgements, and do them."

— Ezekiel 36: 26, 27 (see Ezek 11: 19, 20)

When we come to Christ, God puts a new spirit (small "s") in us. Ours was dead. (Eph 2:1) Then He puts His Spirit (capital "S") in us. This transformation, and indwelling by God's Spirit CAUSES us to walk in His statutes. God in you does His good pleasure. It is the Spirit of Christ (anointing) that now writes God's judgements on your new, heart of flesh; causing you to walk in them. It's ALL Him!

God in you "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
does His — Colossians 1: 27
good pleasure. "Therefore if any man be in Christ,
he is a new creature: old things are

passed away; behold all things are become new."

— II Corinthians 5: 17 (KJV)

Man cannot be changed by changing his external behaviour; only by changing him from the inside, out.

Then...

"He that believeth in me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

- John 7:38 (KJV)

Life flows out of faith, and the justified live by it.

Do:

• As you read the Word, pray:

"Spirit of God,

Write this Truth on my heart. My heart is not stone, but flesh; ready to receive. Then cause me to walk in your statutes. Change me by your Word.
amen."

• Now, just listen to Him, and let Him change you a step at a time - "from glory to glory."