

To receive the gospel is, indeed, a privilege. It is an act of God's grace that he chooses to deliver such great news to us. And having received such good news we are "under obligation" to share it with those whom we encounter. Commit yourself—eagerly, unashamedly—to share the news of God's saving grace with the people in your life today.

3. *What Is Faith?*

Read Romans 1:16–17.

Many assume that having faith in Jesus is merely agreeing that he existed. Others might go a bit further, acknowledging him as an important person to learn from. But is that what Paul means by "faith"? What is faith, really? And what does it mean to place your faith in Jesus?

In your own words, what do you understand the word "faith" to mean?

The Greek word for "faith" is *pistis*. In its verb form (*pisteuo*), English translations render the word as "believe," as is the case in verse 16. It is an active word, communicating something deeper than mere intellectual agreement. **What might it look like for someone's faith to be "active"?**

We use phrases and illustrations—like "a blind leap"—to try and faith. But most of our illustrations fall short of the Bible's vision of belief in Christ. Paul, on the other hand, portrays faith in Christ as something that completely upends and reorients one's life. Faith in Christ is complete trust and active obedience that changes everything for us.

How does this understanding of faith differ from how you've heard it described or even how you described it above?

What could it look like for you to practice Paul's vision of faith in Christ in your day-to-day life?

Faith will feature prominently throughout this study on Romans. Spend some time in prayer, asking God to strengthen your understanding and practice of faith in Christ.