

*"And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:" **Philippians 3:9No2** KJV*



The preposition OF generally denotes source or substance; a table OF wood; a ray OF sun; and *"the faith OF Christ."* Faith is trusting obedience to God's Word, because we know His Voice and follow Him. God covenanted in eternity past with Himself to not only make man, but to redeem him from his own wickedness. In Christ we have the source AND substance of faith. He is *"the Word"* and *"faith cometh by...the Word of God."* He is the substance of faith in that He perfectly obeyed. *"Faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for..."* Hours before the cruelest death ever devised, He prayed, *"Not my will but Thine. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* In human form, God experienced every nuance of torture His tormentors executed *"yet He opened not His mouth."* His body racked with waves of pain cried out *"Father forgive them; They know not what they do!"* He has kept and will keep every promise. Obedience doesn't remove the intensity of the suffering, but it does magnify the faith of the sufferer and the power of the God who can. Have you ever burned yourself? Did you sing hymns? Martyrs sang hymns of praise in the flames of their death. I believe they were spare the physical torment that they might give testimony to Christ! And I believe that whatever persecution may be God's design for your life, trust Him to bring you triumphantly through it to magnify Jesus Christ! The God who commands also enables. *"God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape."* Obedience is *"the way of escape."* The ability to *"endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"* is not found within the human frame except from the indwelling God who *"worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* Jesus said, *"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* God desires our company. *"That in the Ages to Come He might show the EXCEEDING RICHES of His Grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."* God can't allow imperfection into Heaven and will preserve and prepare the penitent as perfect, Holy beings, worthy of His eternal companionship *"through the faith of Christ!"*

Obedience to the Living Word,
Example set by Christ our Lord,
The faith of Christ which keeps in store,
Pleasures for saints for evermore! ~CGP

God's pleasure is to deluge the faithful with pleasures. *"Thou wilt show me the Path of Life: in Thy Presence is fulness of joy; at Thy Right Hand there are pleasures for evermore."* The path of righteous obedience leads to present provision and eternal ecstasy! It must be God that does the work in you through His Word. Imperfection cannot perfect itself. Jesus prayed this for believers:

"That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me."
John 17:21-23 KJV