**Faith in the Working of God**

*Colossians 2:11-12*

1. The Working of God.
2. With Israel.

* The Exodus – Exodus 14:13-18
  + The Egyptians were closing in on the Israelites. They began to complain and say they would have been better off in Egypt (v. 10-12)!
  + Moses tells them to *“Stand still.”* – The Lord would deliver them that day from the hand of the Egyptians.
    - *“Be still, and know that I am God” – Psalm 46:10*
  + God did all of this to show the He is God – the almighty! This was all of His doing! (v. 18). 🡪 made manifest with Rahab
* Entering Canaan – Joshua 1:9 – God is with them. This gives them strength and courage.
  + Rahab the harlot hiding the two spies – Joshua 2:8-13
    - Rahab recognized the accomplishments of Israel were attributed to the working of God.
    - This caused her to fear God.
  + 2:14 – *“when the Lord has given us the land.”* 🡪
  + 6:1-5
    - Did walking around the city, blowing trumpets, and shouting cause the walls to fall down?
    - No. *“I [God] have given Jericho into your hand” – (v. 2)*

1. With Christ

* Raising Him from the dead – Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 1:19-20; Acts 2:22-24
  + God raised Jesus from the dead. This was made possible through the working of God.
  + 1 Corinthians 15:15 – If Christ was not raised, the apostles would be false witnesses of God, because they testified that He raised Christ from the dead. He is making the point that there is in fact a resurrection.
* Seating Him at God’s right hand – Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 1:1-4
  + This was appointed by God. God had the power/authority to do such a thing.
  + *Matthew 28:18 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
  + *“The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand” John 3:35*
  + 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
    - This authority and rule will be given back to the Father in the end.

1. With the new Israel.

* Cultivation of the word – 1 Corinthians 1:18 (power of God); 3:5-7
* Raising us from being dead in sin – Romans 6:3-4
  + Just as Christ was raised *“by the glory of the Father”* so were we when we were baptized.
  + Colossians 2:12
    - The working of God is in baptism as it was in raising Christ from the dead.
    - Christians aren’t saying baptism is a work of merit. It is a gracious work. It is a work of God that we must submit to in obedience!
* Conveying us into His kingdom – Colossians 1:9-14
  + It is God who delivers us from darkness. It is God who transfers us into the kingdom – the place of salvation.

1. Faith in the Working of God.
2. The Faith of Abraham (Romans 4)

* All have sinned. Justification is not in the deeds of the law, but faith in Christ (cf. 3:20-26).
* Showing that since justification is by faith apart from the deeds of the law, that it is available to Jews and Gentiles (cf. 3:27-31).
* Makes the point that Abraham was justified before circumcision and the giving of the law, because it was by faith (cf. 4:1-8).
* Circumcision was a seal of the righteousness of the faith he had before circumcision (cf. 4:9-12).
  + This allowed him to be the father of those who were not circumcised. Those who believe as he did!
  + *“father of those…who also walk in the steps of the faith which…Abraham had”* (v. 12). 🡪
* He had faith in the working of God (cf. 4:18-22)!
  + *“being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform”* (v. 21).
* This is written for our sake as well (cf. 4:23-25)! 🡪

1. Our Faith (Colossians 2:11-12)

*“imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead”* – Romans 4:24

*“faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead”* – Colossians 2:12

* We show faith in Him through baptism (cf. Colossians 2:11-12)!
  + Notice *Romans 4:11 “father of all those who believe”* 🡪 Galatians 3:26-29 – we are of Abraham’s seed if we have faith and are baptized!
* *“who raised Him from the dead”* – Col. 2:12
  + Romans 6:1-6 – Through baptism we are putting our faith in God to raise us up as He did Jesus. We should be in the *“likeness of His resurrection!”*
* 1 Peter 3:21-22
  + *“baptism now saves you…through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”* – NASV
  + Just as the working of God raised Christ, the working of God raises us. It is through baptism. It is through the faith in the working of God.
  + Baptism does not save us because of something we did. Baptism saves us because of what God does.
  + However, submitting to God in baptism shows our faith, and obedience.