

Romans 5:1-2a - Two Benefits Of Believing—Peace With God and Access To God

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Introduction and revision

So far we have learnt that salvation is freely given to the humble who choose to receive it, but never given to the proud who think that they are good enough to earn or work for it—*“But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness”* (Romans 4:5).

The **principle of grace** is all about “believe and receive”. God freely gives to, empowers, and helps those who choose to simply believe in His promises. Grace is accessed by faith, by simply trusting that what God says is true and being humble enough to ask for it.

The **principle of law** is all about “earn and deserve”; the proud sinner thinks that he can be good enough to earn God’s blessings. This results in a person always striving or working hard to be good enough or achieve enough to earn God’s favour.

Now in Romans chapter 5, Paul goes on to describe the many and wonderful benefits of salvation for those who have chosen to humble themselves and so “believe and receive”.

Outline

1. (v 1) The first benefit: Peace with God
2. (v 2a) The second benefit: Access by faith into grace in which we stand

Romans 5:1-2 NKJV

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The following benefits are a direct result of the believer believing that their sin debt was paid in full by Jesus when He died on the cross for the sins of the world—God’s justice towards them is forever satisfied.

1. The first benefit—Peace with God

Romans 5:1 NKJV

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 AMP

Therefore, since we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

v 1 **Therefore, having been justified by faith:** Paul is now talking to the believer, the one who has humbly accepted God's gracious gift of forgiveness—they are justified. They are now considered in a legal or positional sense as being "not guilty" in God's court—they have received the "righteousness of God". Remember that in Romans 1:19 to 3:20, Paul makes a watertight case against every human being that they are guilty before God. Then, starting at Romans 3:21, Paul showed how God can punish sin without punishing the person who committed those sins. He explained how by God becoming a man, living a perfect life, and then voluntarily being the substitutionary and atoning sacrifice (propitiation) for the sins of all mankind, God can now legally set the guilty free—but only if the individual chooses to humbly receive this magnificent gift, and does not try to work for it—"**But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness**" (Romans 4:5).

What it means to have peace with God

v 1 **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:** What does this mean? Consider that as unforgiven sinners we were enemies of God—"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:10 NKJV). We were enemies of God for the following reasons and in the following ways:

- We served a different master (satan) who hates God (Ephesians 2:2)
- The unsaved by nature hate God and are in rebellion against Him (Romans 8:7, Ephesians 2:3)
- Our human nature seeks to destroy God's kingdom, not build it up—but God has given us a new nature (Colossians 3:1-11)
- We were citizens of the enemy's (satan's) kingdom, but now we are citizens of God's kingdom (Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20)

Paul in Ephesians describes what it means that we now live at peace with God and how it is only possible because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross (**through our Lord Jesus Christ**).

Ephesians 2:11-19 NLT

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ **But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.**

¹⁴ **For Christ himself has brought peace to us.** He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ **Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross,** and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ **Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**

¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

Being at peace with God makes it harder to live in this world—our old friends become our new enemies!

There are consequences with being at **peace with God**. While we were enemies of God, our minds were at peace with the evil world system, at peace with the devil, at peace with sin, and at peace with our old nature. Now believers are friends of God. Having received a new nature, the believer is now an enemy of all those things he used to be at peace with. *The believer is still at war, they have just changed sides!*

“I am delighted to find that sin stings you, and that you hate it. The more hatred of sin the better. A sin-hating soul is a God-loving soul. If sin never distresses you, then God has never favoured you.” (Charles Spurgeon)

“Remember that the Bible doesn’t say we have peace with the devil, peace with the world, peace with the flesh, or peace with sin. Life is still a battle for the Christian but it is no longer a battle against God—it is fighting *for* Him. **Some Christians are tempted to believe the battle against God was almost a better place to be, and that is a dangerous and damnable lie.**” (David Guzik)

What David Guzik says is so true. Many Christians have given up the fight against sin because it really is a hard slog. They stop fighting for a strong marriage. They stop fighting to live a pure and addiction free life. They stop fighting to control their lustful thoughts. They stop fighting to put God first and so enjoy relationship with Him. Instead, they live a life ruled by their old nature, allowing habitual sin to rule their lives. It could be bitterness, anger, jealousy, pride, a sense of entitlement, unrealistic expectations of others and ourselves, lust, drugs, drinking, gambling, gaming, theft, a desire to be entertained, a desire to be recognised, or a mixture of these plus other vices.

Remember that if we are not fighting for God, then we are fighting against Him. Anytime the Christian reverts back to their old nature, they are again fighting against God. Positionally they are always at *peace with God*, but practically they are not experiencing the *peace of God*—practically they are enemies of God (see James 4:4).

*The difference between peace **with** God, and the peace **of** God*

Peace with God is the believers positional standing with God because we are justified or forgiven. The *peace of God* is what the believer can choose to enjoy, due to his positional standing of being at *peace with God*. We cannot experience the *peace of God* until we have *peace with God*. However, enjoying the *peace of God* does not happen automatically. We only enjoy the *peace of God* as we willingly submit to Him and make the conscious decision to trust Him. The Bible shows us how to do this in:

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 AMP

Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

⁷ And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The old nature will worry, try to fix the problem, try to overcome the temptation itself, or try to find a way to block out the pain. *The new nature will give the problem over to God and trust God for both the wisdom to know what to do and the power to do it.*

Application: Enjoying the reality of being at peace with God

The following application and story is from Jon Courson: "By embracing the simple fact that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, we have peace with God. Why, then, do so many Christians still fight Him?"

It was in 1972 that the last Imperial Japanese soldier was discovered on a South Sea island. Because he was living in complete isolation, he hadn't heard the news that World War II was over [in 1945]. So there he was—still building fortifications, ready to hold off the American invasion of his little atoll [island].

"What a waste," you say. "He could have been enjoying the Japanese economic boom, but instead he was stuck on an island, fighting malaria—all because he didn't hear that a peace treaty had been signed."

Yet, it's amazing how many of us do the same thing. *I hope the Lord doesn't come down on me for this, or get mad at me for that, we think. He must be really upset with me. I better hide here in the jungle.* We don't get it! The war is over! We have peace with God. The sin that separated us from God is forgiven and forgotten because of what Jesus Christ did for us.

Gang, whether you've prayed for three hours today, or you haven't prayed in three months, the war is still over. If you are a believer in what God the Father did for you in sending Jesus Christ to die in your place, you are righteous—justified by faith. We have a tendency to fall back into thinking we have to earn something or prove something to the Father. Not so. We can relax in our relationship with Him, talk to Him freely, and fellowship with Him continually because we have peace with Him eternally."

A warning: many unbelievers don't even realise that they are enemies of God

"This is peace **with** God; the battle between God and our self is *finished*—and He won, winning us. Some never knew they were *out of peace* with God, but they were like drivers ignoring the red lights of a police car in their rear-view mirror—they are in trouble even if they don't know it, and it will soon catch up to them." (David Guzik)

It is a sad fact that many unbelievers will stand before God on judgement day and only then realise that God is against them, that they are on the wrong team, that they are enemies of God, that they are under God's wrath (Romans 5:9), and are condemned already (John 3:18-20). For now, they live for themselves, thinking that they are good enough people, and that God will accept them the way they are. This is a most dangerous delusion that has eternal ramifications.

2. The Second benefit—access to grace in which we stand

Romans 5:2a NKJV

Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.

Romans 5:2a AMP

Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favour) in which we [firmly and safely] stand.

v 2 **Into this grace in which we stand**: The second benefit that believers enjoy is access by faith into God's grace. Grace is God's unmerited and underserved favour. This is the opposite to being under God's wrath or condemnation; by His grace God desires to bless us instead of punish us.

"The former rebels are not merely forgiven by having their due punishment remitted; they are brought into a place of high favour with God—*this grace in which we stand*." (Bruce)

"A standing in grace reassures us: God's present attitude towards the believer in Christ Jesus is one of favour, seeing them in terms of joy, beauty, and pleasure. He doesn't just love us; He *likes* us because we are in Jesus." (David Guzik)

Also important is the tense of the verb **stand**; it's in the present tense, which means that it's a continuous action. We continually **stand in grace**. Just like Jesus is the great I AM, literally the ever-present One, which means that He existed in the past, exists in the present, and will exist in the future, so our standing in grace is eternal. We were saved by grace in the past (justification or forgiveness), we are being saved by grace in the present (practical sanctification—the renewing of our minds), and we will be saved by grace in the future (glorification, our new resurrection bodies).

"*We stand* translates a perfect tense, used in this sense of the present, and with the thought of a continuing attitude." (Morris)

"Grace is not only the way salvation comes to us, it is also a description of our present standing before God. It is not only the *beginning* principle of the Christian life, it is also the *continuing* principle of the Christian life.

Many Christians begin in grace, but then think they must go on to perfection and maturity by dealing with God on the principle of law—on the ideas of earning and deserving. Paul spoke against this very point in Galatians 3:2–3 and Galatians 5:1–4." (David Guzik)

Galatians 3:2-3 NLT

Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³ How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort [works]?

Galatians 5:1 NLT

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

What does an attitude of grace look like?

The Proper Attitude of Man under Grace (William Newell)

- To *believe*, and consent to be *loved while unworthy*, is the great secret
- To refuse to make “resolutions” and “vows”; for that is to trust in the flesh
- To expect to be blessed, though realising more and more lack of worth
- To testify of God’s goodness, at all times
- To be certain of God’s future favour; yet to be ever more tender in conscience toward Him
- To rely on God’s chastening hand as a mark of His kindness
- A man under grace, if like Paul, has no burdens regarding himself; but many about others

David Guzik adds to the above list: “Standing in grace means that:

- I don’t have to prove I am worthy of God’s love
- God is my friend
- The door of access is permanently open to [God]
- I am free from the “score sheet”—the account is settled in Jesus
- I spend more time praising God and less time hating myself”

What it means to have access to God?

v 2 **Through whom also we have access by faith:** If this access to grace is **by faith**, then it isn’t by works. Believers either choose to humbly receive, or are actively refusing to receive. Trying to pay for or earn something that God has freely given out of the goodness of His heart is a very great insult towards God. It maligns His giving character, making people look good and God look bad.

v 2 **Have access:** Because the believer’s *standing* in grace is permanent, so is their access to the throne of grace where they find help in time of need—they will always have access into God’s presence and He will always be willing to help them.

“The perfect verb tense of **have access** also indicates that this is a standing, permanent possession. Because our standing is based on grace, we really can **stand** and have **peace**, because we know that our access is a permanent possession. It cannot be taken away at a later time.” (David Guzik)

v 2 **We have access:** This literally means that believers have been granted access to the throne room of God, to the very courts of heaven—and *it is Jesus Himself who escorts us into the presence of the Father*.

“One may be reconciled to his prince, and yet not to be brought into his presence.” (Poole) (Yet believers are both reconciled to God *and* brought into God’s presence).

“That friendly relation with God whereby we are acceptable to Him and have assurance that He is favourably disposed towards us.” (Thayer)

“And this access to God, or *introduction* to the Divine presence, is to be considered a lasting privilege. We are not brought to God for the purpose of an *interview*, but to *remain* with him; to be his *household*; and by *faith*, to behold his face, and walk in the light of his countenance.” (Clarke)

“The idea is that of introduction to the presence-chamber of a monarch. The rendering *access* is inadequate, as it leaves out of sight the fact that we do not come in our own strength, but need an ‘introducer’—Christ.” (Leon Morris)

Jon Courson writes: “We not only have peace *with* God, but access *to* God. Notice the word “stand.” Paul didn’t say we have access by faith into this grace wherein we sneak in, or hurriedly race through before we get zapped. No, he said we can stand—we can plant ourselves in the presence of God and enjoy Him as long as we want, anytime we wish.

The story is told that a young boy cried outside Buckingham Palace after a beefeater refused his request to talk to the Queen. Twenty-year-old Prince Charles, observing the scene, approached the boy, took him by the hand, and said, “Come on, son. If you want to talk to the Queen, come with me.”

So, too, we can talk to the King continually when we take the hand of the Son.”

Application: A practical application of what it means to stand in grace

Hebrews 4:16 shows us what having **access by faith into this grace in which we stand** means practically to the believer on a day to day basis.

Hebrews 4:16 NLT

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Because the believer is justified and therefore has peace with God, God looks at them with favour *all of the time*—**we stand in grace**. This means that He is always willing to help the believer whenever they choose to come to Him.

Sinning may cause the believer to temporarily break fellowship with God, but because God still sees him as positionally having “the righteousness of God”, as being perfect in His sight, He is always willing to accept his confession or apology and help him at any time. There is never any waiting time or penance to do.

Although the believer comes boldly to God, he must also come humbly, *because he is always asking God to do for him what he cannot do for himself*. Pride is his own worst enemy. It stops him from asking for help and depending on God. Remember the following scriptures:

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

John 15:5 NKJV

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Remember that God’s commands are God’s promises. Here are three examples:

- God commands us to live a pure life—therefore, it follows that He will give humble believers the wisdom and power they need to live a pure life and overcome temptation, especially habitual sin
- God commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church—therefore, it follows that God will enable the believing husband to be unselfish and put his wife first
- God commands that wives submit to their husbands as unto the Lord—therefore, it follows that God will enable the believing wife to be able to willingly submit to her husband, trusting God to protect her and provide for her when she does.

For the believer who is not overcoming habitual sin, or for the husband or wife who is not growing to be more like who God created them to be in the marriage, there are only two options:

1. God isn’t strong enough to help, or
2. There is a failure on the part of the believer to only believe, and so receive God’s help.

Of course we know that God is always faithful to keep His promises so option number one is *not* an option. Which means that the believers' failure to be all who God wants them to be, to have the power to obey, and to overcome temptation, is *always* a result of them choosing to not seek God's ever-present and always-sufficient help. They are choosing to not access the throne room of Grace where they will always find help in time of need. *They are choosing to not enjoy the practical benefits of standing in grace.*

The key here is childlike dependancy (humility), which is the opposite of self-sufficiency (pride). Because the believer stands in grace, God's strength and wisdom is always there for the asking. But he must choose to stop relying on himself and instead humbly come to the throne of grace and seek God's help. But what stops the believer from coming?

Remember that until the believer chooses to grow in their relationship with God, they will never learn to love and trust. There are two main reasons:

1. For most believers, the sins of neglecting to read God's love letter to us, of neglecting to pray to God, and of not fellowshiping with the saints regularly are the root causes of a lack of love and trust. *The believer must choose to prioritise their relationship with God if he is going to grow in grace—you can't love and trust someone you don't know.*
2. Other believers may do all these things, but with the wrong motives. Like the first generation of Israelites, the word they heard did not benefit them because it wasn't mixed with faith—*"For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."* ³ **For we who have believed do enter that rest**" (Hebrews 4:2-3 NKJV).

What we see here is that faith is everything, and faith is a choice. God will not force believers to love and trust Him; they must choose to. The promise is clear—**"For we who have believed do enter that rest"**—God's rest being that place of childlike dependency and trust in God's power and provision, which results in the believer becoming who God created him to be, and being obedient to God.

Application: Learning humility:

There is a very revealing passage in the Old Testament which explains how an important part of our practical sanctification (the renewing of the mind or being transformed into God's image) is simply *learning humility*—God teaches the believer to be humble and trust and depend on God instead of himself—to trust that God loves him and God is in control.

Once the believer understands this, he will clearly recognise that any failure to be who God created him to be, or to obey, is a direct result of his choosing to rely on his own strength (live by the old nature), instead of choosing to rely on God (live by the power of the Spirit). *He will then see that the sin he most needs to repent of is not really the sin that he sees, but rather the underlying sin of rebellion, unbelief, and self-sufficiency—a heart hardened by the deceitfulness of sin that chooses to not submit to and depend on God* (see Hebrews 3:12-14). The visible sin is really just a symptom of a hard heart.

Hebrews 3:12-14 NLT

Be careful then [beware], dear brothers and sisters. **Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving [refusing to trust and rely on God], turning you away from the living God.** ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be **deceived by sin and hardened [into settled rebellion] against God.** ¹⁴ For **if we are faithful** to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, **we will share in all that belongs to Christ.**

Let's now have a look at the example of God working with the Children of Israel, deliberately putting them in difficult situations so that they had the opportunity to learn humility and so trust in God instead of themselves.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 AMP

And you shall [earnestly] remember all the way which the Lord your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you** and to prove you, to know what was in your [mind and] heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

³ And **He humbled you** and allowed you to hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you recognise and personally know that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.**

Again, the key here is childlike dependancy on God (humility and submission), which is the opposite of self-sufficiency (pride and rebellion). Consider the context of the above verses. God *purposefully* took the nation of Israel into a desert wilderness where there was no food. Why? For two reasons. Firstly to test them and reveal what was in their hearts, and secondly to teach them to not rely on physical or worldly things (**man does not live by bread only**), but rather we need a living and abiding relationship with God (**man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord**).

The people could choose to either depend on God and ask for His help, or, try unsuccessfully to fix the problem themselves and then start grumbling and complaining and blaming God and others when they realised that they couldn't.

What God desired from them was *a humble prayer of loving submission from a soft heart*:
“Daddy, Abba Father, I know that you love me, and I know that You have brought me out into this desert wasteland for my own good (see Romans 8:28-29). I also know that you promised to provide all my needs (see Philippians 4:19). I know that without Your help I cannot survive in this place (see John 15:5). I also know that you want me to ask for Your help (see Luke 11:9-10). So here I am, my Daddy and my King, I come before You humbly requesting Your help (see Hebrews 4:16). Would you please provide food for me in the way that You think is best. I love you and trust you Lord, my Abba Father, thankyou for never leaving me and never letting me down (see Hebrews 13:5-6).”

Jesus as always sets the example. When in a hard place, He didn't complain, but rather sought help from His loving Abba Father.

Mark 14:36 NKJV

“Abba [Daddy], Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

The Scriptures also encourage us to relate to the Father as our Daddy, as our loving and caring Heavenly Father.

Romans 8:15 NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba [Daddy], Father.”

Galatians 4:6-7 NKJV

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba [Daddy], Father!” ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Of course this is not how the Israelites responded. God's test showed what their hearts were like: as hard as stone untrusting, unbelieving, unloving, and therefore disobedient. This meant that they responded with a *complaining and blaming spirit or attitude*. Exodus 16:2-3 records their sinful response:

Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (NKJV)

Numbers 20:2-5 and 21:4-5 are two further examples of the many times that the Israelites responded pridefully to God. Hebrews 3:7-4:11 explains that this first generation of Israelites never did learn to submit to, trust in, and depend on God. God gave them ten opportunities to learn to, or choose to, trust Him after seeing Him provide for them so many times and in so many different ways, but they never did (see Numbers 14:22). Therefore they never experienced living by faith—they never experienced what it felt like to experience victory in the promised land—they never won any battles—instead they lived, empty, bitter, and defeated lives right up until their death.

So listen! God uses this first generation of the nation of Israel who God brought out of Egypt as a warning to all believers living today—they will suffer the same fate if they choose to continue to harden their hearts like that first generation did.

The circumstances that God might put believers in today to teach them humility could be: a difficult marriage, a difficult work place, a difficult family environment, a persistent temptation, ill health, financial problems, persecution, and the hardest of all—living in a wealthy country.

Again, believers today, if they choose to continue to harden their hearts, will live their entire lives never experiencing the abundant life that God desires to give them (John 10:10), a life full of joy, love, and peace (John 15:9-11). Instead the hard hearted believer will be unfulfilled, unhappy, unfruitful, frustrated, angry and bitter (see Hebrews 3:7-4:11). The hard hearted believer must choose to cease from his own works and enter into God's rest (see Hebrews 4:10).

Summary and conclusion: It's not a matter of losing salvation, but rather how much the believer chooses to enjoy their new life in Christ

The people of Israel were and always will be the chosen people of God. However, the first generation lacked faith. Therefore, they never experienced a life of victory, contentment, and joy because they refused to believe—they refused to depend on God. The second generation (their children) learned from their parents' bad example, and they chose to live by faith, trusting in and depending on God. Therefore, God led them into the promised land where they experienced joy, contentment, and victory over their enemies.

Again, it's not a matter of losing salvation, but rather how painful the believer chooses to make life for themselves and those around them—sin always results in hurt and pain. The less the believer chooses to trust in God (the more proud he is), the more unnecessary pain and suffering he puts himself and others through. The opposite is also true.

The lesson for believers today is that the choice is theirs—to trust or not to trust God. Will they experience the practical blessings and benefits of enjoying the peace of God as they **by faith access the grace in which they stand**, or will they continue to fight against God.

Romans 5:1-2a NKJV

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.