



Bathurst Baptist
Church

FAITH WEEK

2-9 August 2015



INTRODUCTION:

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:17)

"At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God ... I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith. Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open."

(from Martin Luther's meditation on Romans 1:17)



As members of a Baptist fellowship we are part of the Protestant tradition. In October 1517 a monk named Martin Luther publicly challenged some of the practices of the Roman Catholic church. This and similar 'protests' resulted in the Reformation - the process which eventually saw the Christian church split into two basic groups: the established Roman Catholic church under the authority of the Pope and the Protestant churches who claimed to be under the authority of no one but God, as He is revealed in the Scriptures.

The great rallying cry of the Reformation was: by Faith alone through Grace alone by Scripture alone.

What did the Reformers mean by "faith alone"? What does the Bible mean when it affirms that we are saved by faith not works (eg. Ephesians 2:8-9)?

The following pages contain thoughts about some of the things the Bible has to say about faith. Take the time to read the passages referred to each day - make sure you give yourself the opportunity to hear from God.

Each devotion is followed by a page set aside for journaling. Here you can ponder / meditate on / mull over / kick around the passages and ideas of the day and see where your thoughts lead you ... think over your responses to the question asked at the top of each journaling page. Putting pen to paper forces us to clarify our thoughts so not only WE know what we're thinking, but we're ready to talk about our thoughts with someone else. Write your prayers down as you respond to God ... use prose or poetry, bullet points or mind maps - whatever stimulates you to thought and action ...

Lindy Taylor.



**DAY 7 - HOW CAN I SHARE MY
FAITH? ... TESTIMONY
- DOING IT!**

It's strange that sometimes we can know someone for years, attend the same home group, chat for hours over innumerable coffees, talk about family and work and all the problems of the world, but not tell the stories that have changed our lives.

We'll be together at church today. There'll be great coffee and lovely things to eat, the hall will probably be nice and warm ... most of us will stay around after the service. I wonder what we'll talk about?



