

FAITH EXCHANGED

ROMANS 1:8-15

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Paul was not a spiritual elitist, nor was he intellectually arrogant. Just as preaching is vital in the church, small groups also enable believers to grow in faith.

YOUR FAITH—“...faith is a gift God gives us because he is saving us. (Ephesians 2:8). It is God’s grace, not our faith, that saves us. In His mercy, however, when he saves us he gives us faith [and] a relationship with his Son that helps us become like him. Through the faith he gives us, he carries us from death into life (John 5:24).” Life Application Study Bible, notes on “Faith” in Romans 1. (Romans 1:8, fn 1:8{2nd}, Ephesians 2:8, 9, fn 2:8, 9, John 5:24, fn 5:24, Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, II Corinthians 3:15-18, fn 3:18) *Why is it important to understand that your salvation and your faith are gifts?*

PLUS MY FAITH—There is a special joy in fellowshiping with other believers. In Christian fellowship, such as that enjoyed in small groups, faith grows as faith is shared. (Romans 1:11, fn 1:11, 12, Matthew 18:20, fn 18:19, 20, John 17:13,20-23, fn 17:21-23[2nd], Hebrews 10:24, 25, fn 10:22-25, Romans 10:17) *How is your small group unique in helping your faith to grow?*

MAKES A STRONG FAITH. A double blessing occurs because the Holy Spirit enables some to teach and encourage and others to learn and to receive encouragement. In small group discussions the Holy Spirit shows how God is working in our individual lives, and the result is a stronger faith caused by the “exchange of faith.” (Romans 1:12, Romans 15:7, I Peter 2:9, 10, fn 2:9, 10, Colossians 3:16, Philemon 6) *How do the group discussions and your answer to the lesson’s questions help you and others to grow in faith?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.