

Paul's letter to the
ROMANS
FROM AMONG ALL PEOPLES



What is "The Obedience of Faith"?

(NIV - the obedience that comes from faith")

Paul's vocation as an apostle is to call the gentiles to "**the Obedience of Faith**" (Holman, NRSV, ESV. Note also that the footnote in the NIV is "**the obedience that IS faith**") - see Romans 1:5, 16:26.

When the NIV main text speaks of "**the obedience that comes from faith**" we should not imagine that this "obedience" is something distinct from the "faith" itself. Paul is establishing that his apostolic calling is to preach the Gospel so as to win people to "the obedience of faith" **rather than** to "the obedience of law" (which Paul explicitly does not wish to win converts to!). Paul repeatedly uses the word "Faith" in antithetical & polemical opposition to "Law" (see Romans 3:21-22, 27-28; 4:13-16).

That Paul is speaking of Faith **as** Obedience can also be seen by comparing Romans 1:8 and 16:19:

- In Romans 1:8, Paul writes: "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, **because your faith is being reported all over the world.**"
- In Romans 16:17 & 19, Paul writes concerning the teaching they received from him: "**Everyone has heard about your obedience**, so I rejoice because of you."

We see the same idea expressed in Romans 15:18-19 where Paul seeks to win the Gentiles to "obey" his proclamation of the Gospel. And in Romans 10:16-21, Israel's disobedience (10:21) is actually their refusal to believe/have faith (10:16-17). In addition, elsewhere we see Paul pair together similar language in explaining obedience of the gospel/truth (Gal 5:7; 2 Thess 1:8).