

## FAITH: ORIGIN AND PURPOSE

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Greek. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from beginning to end, as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)*

### **It All Begins with God — The Word and Creation**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. (Genesis 1:1-5)*

*Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the large animals of the whole earth, and all the small creatures that crawl along the ground." (Genesis 1:26)*

### **Sin, Separation, Independence = Unbelief**

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. And he asked the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any of the trees in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1)*

*When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some of its fruit, ate it, and gave some to her husband, who also ate it. (Genesis 3:6)*

*And to the man He said, "Because you have listened to your wife and eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' the ground is cursed because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your bread until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:17-19)*

### **The Word (the Logos) and the New Creation**

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

