

The Weak/Strong in Faith (Romans 14:1-8)

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Issues in Understanding *Weak in Faith* and *Strong in Faith*

1. Does this passage refer to UNBELIEVERS at all?

- A. This passage is not in "The Righteous Can Obtain Righteousness" Section
- B. Paul calls the readers saints: 1:7
- C. He calls the readers *the called of God*: 1:6
- D. He speaks of the readers' faith: 1:8, 12
- E. He calls them brethren: 1:13; 7:1, 4; 8:12; 10:1; 11:25; 12:1; 15:14-15, 30; 16:17
- F. He calls the weak *brethren* of the strong: 14:15

2. Are strong and weak distinct KINDS OF faith?

The so-called head faith and heart faith nonsense

3. Can the WEAK become strong?

4. Who are the WEAK?

EXPOSITION

1 Accept the one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to engage in disputes about opinions.

2 One person believes he may eat everything, but another who is weak eats only vegetables.

3 The person who eats should not scorn the person who doesn't eat, and the person who doesn't eat should not condemn the one who eats; for God has accepted him.

4 Who are you to judge another person's house servant? He stands or falls to his own lord. But he shall be enabled to stand, for God has the power to enable him to stand.

5 One person regards *one* day above *another* day; another esteems every day *the same*. Let each person be fully assured in his own mind.

6 The person who esteems the day, esteems *it* with reference to the Lord. And the person who does not esteem the day, with reference to the Lord he does not esteem *it*. So too the person who eats, eats with reference to the Lord, since he gives God thanks. And the person who does not eat, with reference to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.

7 After all no one of us lives with reference to himself *alone*, and no one dies with reference to himself *alone*.

8 For if we live, we live with reference to the Lord; and if we die, we die with reference to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

CONCLUSION