

Romans 11:11-24  
Faith and Un-Faith

**I. John 15:1-8. Ps.80:8-19; Isa. 5:1-7**

- A. There is only one vine of life: Abraham—Israel—Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus is the True Israel, the true vine.
- B. Fruit begins with faith in Christ. Jn.6:29
  - 1. Evidenced by abiding in His words.
  - 2. This faith grows and produces other fruit as well.
- C. Branches “in Me” are Jews who reject Christ. Jn.10:25-30
  - 1. Jesus told the unbelieving Jewish leaders that they didn’t belong to him.
- D. *This is not a threat against his real branches, but a warning against those who claim to know God and reject Christ as Messiah.*

**II. Romans 9-11 is Paul’s explanation of Israel’s unbelief.**

- A. God decided to work with a remnant within Israel. 9:1-29
  - 1. He is well within his rights to do this.
- B. Israel decided to reject the righteousness God offered in Christ. 9:30-10:21
  - 1. A decision God ratified by “enhancing their stupidity.” (11:8)
- C. God decided to bring Israel back after the Gentile flock has been gathered. Ch.11

**III. Does this mean God is finished with Israel? No. 4 realities. Rom. 11:11-24**

- A. God has a plan in Israel’s unbelief. 11-16. Acts 2:22-24
  - 1. By rejecting Messiah, Jesus was crucified and resurrected for all of us, Jew and Gentile alike, as God planned.
  - 2. God used Israel’s unbelief to reach the gentiles and gentile faith to incite Israelis to faith.
- B. God saves only through Abraham’s Seed. 17-18. Gal. 3:7-9; 27-29
  - 1. Gentile faith is rooted in Jewish Promises, not the other way around.
  - 2. God promised to save the world through the seed of Abraham. There is no salvation apart from that human seed from God through Abraham—Jesus Christ.
- C. Which means God saves only through grace and faith. 19-22 (6)
  - 1. The issue is internal faith, not just external association.
  - 2. The “natural branches” were “broken off” for unbelief in Christ—not because they disobeyed the Torah (or any other law).
  - 3. *This is an apostasy warning—real believers listen to this and do not apostatize.*
- D. God does not reject those to whom he has made the Promise. 23-24 (29)
  - 1. *Restoration is possible where faith is genuine.*
  - 2. Implication: Ethnic Israel will be brought to faith some day.

**IV. Two Important Observations:**

- A. Paul is treating Jews and Gentiles as groups rather than individuals. (EBC)
  - 1. God has sovereignly decided to work among gentiles for now.
- B. The church has obviously not “replaced” ethnic Israel in God’s plan.
  - 1. “Replacement theology” has been common in the church, but does not square with these passages.
  - 2. Israel and the church, while connected, are yet distinct.

## V. What can we learn about genuine Faith?

### A. It trusts Only Christ's Grace. 29

1. *The danger of long-term discipleship is shifting one's confidence from Christ's personal grace to our personal worth.*
2. *Faith alone, Grace alone, Christ alone...*
3. *Not race (Jew or Gentile) pedigree, Church, Ceremonies, Traditions—or even our own obedience.*
  - a) *Slipping from this creates arrogance, pride, self-confidence.*

### B. It remains in Awe. 19-23. Phil.2:12-13

1. *Kindness and Severity? Yes. This really matters. God is gracious, not indulgent.*
2. *Apostasy warnings should not produce Worry, but Awareness of the seriousness.*
  - a) *There is a healthy "fear" in genuine faith. It is not "worry" but it is true awareness of the life-and-death nature of this age.*
3. *This healthy awareness (awe) is what produces perseverance.*

### C. It relies on the Spirit to bring people back. 24. 1 Jn.3:9-10. 22

1. *Paul is confident that anyone to whom God has made a promise (foreknown, 11:2; 8:29) will be brought back to faith*
2. *It may wain, look like unbelief for a time, but the life of the Spirit will draw the genuine believer back.*