

Salvation—Faith

Intro: Faith is one of the most discussed subjects in the religious world. However, few actually know what faith actually involves.

I. THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

A. A few of the many passages:

1. Heb. 11:6 ^{“6} But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
2. John 3:16 ^{“16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
3. Acts 10:43 ^{“43} To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”
4. Acts 16:31 ^{“31} And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
5. Eph. 2:8-9 ^{“8} For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

B. The Scriptures teach that without faith, we cannot be saved.

II. THE ORIGIN OF FAITH

A. Some contend that faith comes directly from God.

1. It is a misunderstanding and misuse of the Scriptures.
2. Eph. 2:8 ^{“8} For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:”
 - a. They apply “gift of God” to faith.
 - b. “Gift of God” refers to salvation by grace, not faith.
 - (1) *Faith* is feminine gender.
 - (2) *That* is neuter gender.
 - (3) Thus, the “gift of God” cannot refer to faith.

B. Rom. 10:17 ^{“17} So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

C. One of the reasons the Bible, God’s Word, was given is to produce faith.

1. John 20:30-31 ^{“30} And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
2. Acts 17:11-12 ^{“11} These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”

III. THE DEFINITION OF FAITH.

A. Many believe the word faith or belief is nothing more than a guess or hope so based on probability or assumption.

1. The denominationalist accepted a leap of faith years ago.
2. In this there is a dichotomy between faith and knowledge.

B. Faith is based upon knowledge.

1. Heb. 11:1 ^{“1} Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

2. The proper evidence must be given and a correct reasoning concerning the facts presented leading one to act in accordance to the evidence.
 - a. John 20
 - (1) Thomas does not believe.
 - (2) Jesus appears and presents the evidence of his body.
 - (3) John 20:27 ^{“27} Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be **not faithless, but believing.**”
 - b. Heb. 11
 - (1) Faith is rational; Heb. 11:3 ^{“3} Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”
 - (2) Faith is based on revelation.
 - (a) Heb. 11:7 ^{“7} By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”
 - (b) Heb. 11:8 ^{“8} By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”
 - (3) Faith leads a person to trust in God and His revelation, act according to that revelation; Heb. 11:7, 8 ^{“7} By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. ⁸ By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

IV. ARE WE SAVED BY FAITH ONLY?

A. No!

B. Jam. 2:14-26 ^{“14} What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Conclusion: Faith is essential to one’s salvation. We simply cannot be saved without it. However, true faith is based upon God’s Word producing within us a trust and confidence in Him to do what He says.