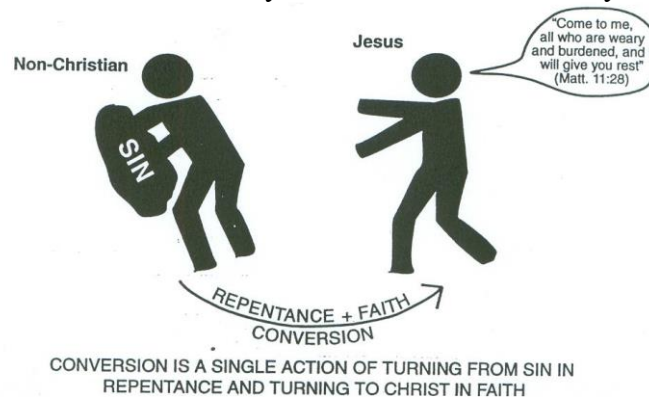


CONVERSION - FAITH

INTRODUCTION

- Repentance and faith are both fruits of regeneration
- The very first act of the regenerated sinner's renewed nature is a conscious decision to repent of sin negatively and believe in Christ positively for salvation
- When true conversion occurs, there is always a turning from sin (repentance) and turning to God in Christ (faith)...one cannot occur without the other
- Thus, faith and repentance are both necessary for true conversion...they are two sides of the same coin



- “Regeneration is the act of God and of God alone. But faith is not the act of God; it is not God who believes in Christ for salvation, it is the sinner. It is by God’s grace that a person is able to believe but faith is an activity on the part of the person and of him alone. In faith we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation.”²
- “It might be said: this is a strange mixture. God alone regenerates. We alone believe. And we believe in Christ alone for salvation. But this is precisely the way it is. It is well for us to appreciate all that is implied in the combination, for it is God’s way of salvation and it expresses his supreme wisdom and grace. In salvation God does not deal with us as machines; he deals with us as persons and therefore salvation brings the whole range of our activity within its scope. By grace we are saved through faith.”³

WHAT FAITH IS

Definition

- Faith is often misunderstood today in that it is often mistaken for a blind belief in something that is unreasonable
- “Contemporary cultural thought, dominated by secular humanism, conceives of faith as the opposite of knowledge—that faith is what takes over when one does not have sufficient knowledge. It is not uncommon to hear someone say, ‘Well, I can’t really know, but I just believe it.’ However, the biblical conception of faith is not an existential leap in the dark or a sentimental, wish-upon-a-star kind of hope.”⁴
- At its root, the term “faith” means “trust”...and to trust God is not to trust blindly because he is trustworthy

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 709.

² John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 106.

³ Ibid.

⁴ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*, 596.

- Additionally, the Christian “faith” is called that because there is a body of knowledge (i.e. “the faith” – Jude 3) that is affirmed and believed by Christians
- Thus, Christianity does not rest on myths and fables but on historically reliable facts and events, events that were seen by eyewitnesses with their own eyes and heard with their own ears

1 John 1:1-3 ~ What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

- “Faith...is a whole-souled movement of self-commitment to Christ for salvation from sin and its consequences...[faith] is not the belief that we have been saved but trust in Christ in order that we may be saved.”⁵
- “Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God.”⁶
- Faith occurs when the new birth removes the blindness of spiritual death and the sinner, now beholding the glory of Christ, embraces him with all his heart
- Upon seeing that Christ is perfectly suited to cleanse from sin and grant his righteousness, the sinner believes on and entrusts himself to all that Christ is
- Saving faith then constitutes a full commitment to the person and work of Christ with mind, heart and will

Necessary Components for True Saving Faith

Knowledge (Notitia) – the intellectual element involving the mind

- Saving faith must include an understanding of the truth...it involves content...it is based on knowledge
- Salvation involves knowledge of the Word of God concerning the basic facts of the Gospel
- Some have said, “It doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you are sincere” – such thinking is radically opposed to the teaching of Scripture as salvation does not come by sincerity alone...could be sincerely wrong
- The Bible teaches that it matters profoundly what you believe...right doctrine in the essential truths of the Gospel is a necessary ingredient for saving faith...biblical faith and knowledge of the truth are not enemies

Romans 10:17 ~ Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:15 ~ the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation

- “It might seem very confusing to say that faith is knowledge. For is it not one thing to know, another thing to believe? This is partly true. Sometimes we must distinguish between faith and knowledge and place them in contrast to each other. But there is a knowledge that is indispensable to faith...There must be apprehension of the truth respecting Christ...Sometimes, indeed, the measure of truth apprehended by the believing person is very small, and we have to appreciate the fact that the faith of some in its initial stages is very elementary.”⁷
- What exactly must a person know to be saved?

John 8:24 ~ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ~ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according

⁵ Murray, *Redemption Accomplished*, 107, 109.

⁶ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 710.

⁷ Murray, *Redemption Accomplished*, 110.

to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Romans 10:9-10 ~ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Romans 6:8-9 ~ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 **knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

2 Corinthians 4:13-14 ~ But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore we also speak, 14 **knowing** that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.

Galatians 2:16 ~ nevertheless **knowing** that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 ~ For if we **believe** that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

- These texts demonstrate that knowledge of the truth is grounds for genuine saving faith
- “Knowledge of the gospel message—namely, the divinely revealed facts of God’s holiness, sin’s penalty, Christ’s identity, and what he has accomplished for sinners—is the very ground of saving faith. Clearly, then, true faith has objective substance. Believing is not a mindless leap in the dark or some ethereal kind of trust apart from knowledge. The truth of the gospel message as revealed in Christ and in Scripture provides a factual, historical, intellectual basis for our faith.”⁸
- Yet, knowing all these facts about Christ does not necessarily mean someone is saved
- It is possible to know the content of the Gospel without affirming that it is true

Romans 1:32 ~ and although **they know the ordinance of God**, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Conviction (Assensus) – the emotional element involving the heart

- Saving faith must include, not just an understanding of the Gospel, but also an acknowledgment of its truth
- Saving faith not only knows the truth but also assents to and wholeheartedly believes the truth as it is revealed in Scripture
- “The conviction which enters into faith is not only an assent to the truth respecting Christ but also a recognition of the exact correspondence that there is between the truth of Christ and our deeds as lost sinners. What Christ is as Saviour perfectly dovetails our deepest and most ultimate need. This is just saying that Christ’s sufficiency as Saviour meets the desperateness and hopelessness of our sin and misery. It is conviction which engages, therefore, our greatest interest and which registers the verdict: Christ is exactly suited to all that I am in my sin and misery and to all that I should aspire to be by God’s grace. Christ fits in perfectly to the totality of our situation in its sin, guilt, misery, and ill-desert.”⁹
- The writer of Hebrews gives a definition of this believing faith:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6 ~ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made

⁸ MacArthur and Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 597.

⁹ Murray, *Redemption Accomplished*, 111.

out of things which are visible...6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- Verse 1 provides a definition of faith...it is not a wistful longing for something that is unlikely...it is not simply hopeful, positive thinking...rather, it involves assurance and conviction
- The writer of Hebrews uses synonymous parallelism in v. 1 similar to the poetry in the wisdom literature
- The thought of the first line is restated with similar concepts in the second line...putting both lines together provides a fuller statement
- Faith is “the assurance of things hoped for” (v. 1) – real faith takes God at his word
- The word “assurance” (*hupostasis*) signifies the ground on which something is built...in the case of faith, it is a supernatural confidence in and on the One who has made the promises
- This points to facts or reality...the most solid conviction...as opposed to mere wishing
- Faith is living in a hope that is so real it gives absolute assurance
- Faith constitutes the firm ground on which we stand as we wait for the fulfillment of God’s promise
- Rather than being nebulous or uncertain, faith is the most solid possible conviction of a future reality
- It is a God-wrought conviction about the truth of the Bible’s promises and the trustworthiness of Christ
- “Hebrews 11:1 faith is not like the everyday faith that we speak of. We drink water out of a faucet, believing it is safe. We drive our automobiles in freeway traffic, trusting that the brakes will work. We submit to the surgeon’s knife and the dentist’s drill by faith...The capacity for that kind of faith is intrinsic to human nature. But it is not the faith Hebrews 11:1 describes. To begin with, natural faith rests on an object that is not necessarily reliable. The water might actually be tainted. The brakes could fail. Surgeons do make mistakes...But when we believe unto eternal life, we trust something more real and Someone more trustworthy than anything or anyone we could ever comprehend with the natural senses...So the faith described in Hebrews 11 is focused on an infinitely more dependable object than any of the day-to-day varieties of faith.”¹⁰
- “Also, the nature of faith is different in the spiritual realm. Natural faith relies on the physical senses. We tend to believe only what we or others can see, hear, taste, and feel. When we trust the water, our brakes, the surgeon...we do so because our sense and human experience tell us these things are generally worthy of our confidence. Hebrews 11:1 faith, on the other hand, is a supernatural conviction – a solid, unshakable assurance that is contrary to human nature.”¹¹
- Faith is also “the conviction of things not seen” (v. 1) – it is faith that looks ahead to the future with confidence because of the goodness of God in the past
- Unseen hopes and realities promised in God’s Word are certain
- Faith teaches us to hold fast even when things are “not seen”...faith sees what is invisible
- Specifically, saving faith involves being absolutely convinced that we are helpless to address the inevitable misery of our spiritual condition...and that Christ is the perfect answer to our spiritual bankruptcy
- “Conviction implies a deeper manifestation of the inward assurance. People of faith are prepared to live out their belief. Their lives reflect a commitment to what their minds and hearts are assured is true. They are so sure of promises and blessings yet future that they behave as if those promises were already realized...No matter what tests it, no matter the cost, this faith endures...No matter what attacks this faith, it cannot be destroyed.”¹²
- “Commitment is the disputed element of faith around which the lordship controversy swirls. No-lordship theology denies that believing in Christ involves any element of personal commitment to Him. It is impossible to harmonize the no-lordship view of faith with Hebrews 11. The whole point of this chapter is

¹⁰ John MacArthur, *Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles*, 42.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² MacArthur, *Faith Works*, 43.

to highlight examples of people who were committed to what they believed. More precisely, they were committed to the God they believed in – even to death.”¹³

- Faith is also “believing that God is” (v. 6)
- Saving faith consists of believing that God exists...and that this God is the God of the Bible who has revealed himself in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Thus, saving faith involves believing in the work of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and life with God

John 3:16 ~ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 5:24 ~ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes** Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:47 ~ Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **believes** has eternal life.

Acts 8:37 ~ And Philip said, “If you **believe** with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Acts 10:43 ~ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who **believes** in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 16:31 ~ They said, “**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Romans 1:16 ~ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who **believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 10:9-10 ~ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person **believes**, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

- Yet, knowing and believing all these facts about Christ does not necessarily mean someone is saved
- There is a faith that does not save

John 3:2 ~ this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

Acts 26:27-28 ~ “King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.” 28 Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”

- There is mere intellectual faith, a dead faith, that does not save

James 2:17-20, 26 ~ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. 18 But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?...26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

- There is an emotional faith that does not endure trials that does not save

Matthew 13:20-21 ~ The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

¹³ Ibid., 43-44.

- There is a faith that is overcome by a love for the world that does not save

Matthew 13:22 ~ And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- There is a faith based on miracles that does not save...notice in the following verse that though some believed (v. 23 - *pisteuo*) in his name, Jesus did not believe in them (v. 24 - *pisteuo*)

John 2:23-24 ~ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men

John 6:66 ~ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

- There is a faith that is deluded into thinking it saves but will one day be shown to be false

Matthew 7:21-22 ~ Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

1 John 2:19 ~ They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

Trust (Fiducia) – the volitional element involving the will

- Saving faith involves not just a knowledge and a belief in the facts of the Gospel; it involves a commitment to and trust in the person and work of Christ
- It involves, by a decision of the will, placing complete trust in Christ as Savior
- It involves the heart, the mind, and the will...it involves personal reliance and dependence on Christ himself whereby we personally appropriate the person and work of Christ
- We embrace with our hearts the sweetness and loveliness of Christ in a saving commitment to him
- “[S]aving faith moves beyond ‘believing that’ and arrives at ‘believing in’; it moves beyond mentally assenting to truth about Christ and arrives at personally trusting in Christ and depending on him for forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God.”¹⁴

Matthew 11:28-30 ~ Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

John 1:12 ~ But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 3:36 ~ He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 6:53-58 ~ Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

John 7:37 ~ Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink

John 15:4-5 ~ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you

¹⁴ MacArthur and Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 598-599.

unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Hebrews 11:6 ~ And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

- Real faith actively seeks God as the soul's greatest treasure

Matthew 13:44-46 ~ The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

- “Faith, then, is seeking and finding God in Christ, desiring Him, and ultimately being fulfilled with Him. Another way of saying it is that faith is wholly leaning on Christ – for redemption, for righteousness, for counsel, for fellowship, for sustenance, for direction, for succor, for His lordship, and for all in life that can truly satisfy.”¹⁵
- “This ‘trust,’ or *fiducia*, faith’s volitional component, is the crowning element of believing. It involves surrender to the object of faith. It is a personal appropriation of Christ as both Lord and Savior...Saving faith, then, is the whole of my being embracing all of Christ. Faith cannot be divorced from commitment.”¹⁶
- “Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence. Faith cannot stop short of self-commitment to Christ, a transference of reliance upon ourselves and all human resources to reliance upon Christ alone for salvation. It is a receiving and resting upon him. It is here that the most characteristic act of faith appears; it is engagement of person to person, the engagement of the sinner as lost to the person of the Saviour able and willing to save. Faith, after all, is not belief of propositions of truth respecting the Saviour, however essential an ingredient of faith such belief is. Faith is truth in a person, the person of Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the lost. It is entrustment of ourselves to him. It is not simply believing him; it is believing in him and on him.”¹⁷
- “It is to be remembered that the efficacy of faith does not reside in itself. Faith is not something that merits the favour of God. All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Saviour. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ that saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace and virtue of the Saviour become operative in the believer. The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing preoccupation of faith.”¹⁸
- Thus, it is clear that all three elements of saving faith must be present:
 - There must be some basic knowledge and understanding of the facts of the Gospel
 - There must be approval of, agreement with, and belief in those facts
 - There must be a conscious willingness to entrust ourselves to Christ, depending on him as our Savior

Salvation has Always Been Through Faith

- Those under the old covenant were looking ahead in faith to the coming of the Messiah who would take away their sins

Genesis 15:6 ~ Then he (Abraham) believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

¹⁵ MacArthur, *Faith Works*, 48.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 44-45.

¹⁷ Murray, *Redemption Accomplished*, 111-112.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 112.

Habakkuk 2:4 ~ Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.

Romans 4:2, 3 ~ For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

Hebrews 9:15 ~ And for this reason, He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Saving Faith is a Gift from the Lord

- An understanding of sovereign grace concludes that the reason a believer responds in faith to the Gospel (and the unbeliever does not) is not because of their free will but rather because faith is a gift of God to the elect

Ephesians 2:8 ~ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

- The “gift” here must refer to the totality of salvation described in this verse: the grace, being saved, & faith
- Thus, the faith which brings about conversion is as much a gift as any other aspect of salvation

Philippians 1:29 ~ For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

- “granted” (*charizomai*) is from the noun for “grace” (*charis*)
- Thus, both suffering and believing in Christ are gracious gifts from the Lord

2 Peter 1:1 ~ Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ

- The faith Peter refers to here is not a faith which results from human will but that which originates from the sovereign will of God
- Other verses that support faith as being a gift of God to the elect:

Acts 16:14 ~ A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

John 6:65 ~ And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

James 1:16-18 ~ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

- Notice that we are saved “through faith”...faith is merely the channel of grace...it’s all a gift
- Everything associated with our salvation is by grace: Our being made alive in Christ...our exercising faith...our being saved from God's wrath...our being raised in Christ...our being seated in the heavenlies with him
- It’s all God's doing, not ours...the whole thing, from beginning to end, is a gift
- “Right well remember this; or you may fall into error by fixing your minds so much upon the faith which is the channel of salvation as to forget the grace which is the fountain and source even of faith itself. Faith is the work of God's grace in us...Grace is the first and last moving cause of salvation; and faith, essential as it is, is only an important part of the machinery which grace employs. We are saved ‘through faith,’ but salvation is ‘by grace’... Faith occupies the position of a channel or conduit pipe. Grace is the fountain and

the stream; faith is the aqueduct along which the flood of mercy flows down to refresh the thirsty sons of men... Still, I again remind you that faith is only the channel or aqueduct, and not the fountain head, and we must not look so much to it as to exalt it above the divine source of all blessing which lies in the grace of God.”¹⁹

WHAT FAITH DOES

- True faith will always produce righteous works...because faith is the root and works are the fruit
- “Meritorious works have nothing to do with faith. But faith works have everything to do with it...Faith works are a consequence of faith, not a component of faith...faith is an entirely inward response and therefore is complete before it produces its first work. At the moment of salvation, faith does nothing but receive the provision of Christ. The believer himself contributes nothing meritorious to the saving process...But true faith never remains passive. From the moment of regeneration, faith goes to work. It doesn't work for divine favor. It doesn't work against God's grace, but in accord with grace.”²⁰

It Obeys

- Faith and obedience are closely connected

John 3:36 ~ He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

- Hebrew 11 illustrates the fact that true, saving faith produces obedience...it caused:
 - Abel to sacrifice properly (v. 4)
 - Enoch to walk with God (v. 5)
 - Noah to build the ark (v. 7)
 - Abraham to leave (vv. 8-10)
 - Sarah to conceive (v. 11)
 - Abraham to offer Isaac (vv. 17-19)
 - Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph to believe God for the future (vv. 20-23)
 - Moses to turn away from earthly treasure for heavenly reward (vv. 24-26)
 - Moses and Joshua to witness miracles from the hand of God (vv. 27-30)
 - Rahab to have courage in the face of danger (vv. 31-33)

It Endures

- Hebrews 11 also demonstrates that true faith perseveres, no matter what

Hebrews 11:32-40 ~ And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; 36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

¹⁹ Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 44-45.

²⁰ MacArthur, *Faith Works*, 53.

The Character of GENUINE SAVING FAITH

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

I. EVIDENCES THAT NEITHER PROVE NOR DISPROVE ONE'S FAITH

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Visible Morality: | Matt. 19:16–21; 23:27. |
| B. Intellectual Knowledge: | Rom. 1:21; 2:17ff. |
| C. Religious Involvement: | Matt. 25:1–10 |
| D. Active Ministry: | Matt. 7:21–24 |
| E. Conviction of Sin: | Acts 24:25 |
| F. Assurance: | Matt. 23 |
| G. Time of Decision: | Luke 8:13, 14 |

II. THE FRUIT/PROOFS OF AUTHENTIC/TRUE CHRISTIANITY:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| A. Love for God: | Ps. 42:1ff; 73:25; Luke 10:27; Rom. 8:7 |
| B. Repentance from Sin: | Ps. 32:5; Prov. 28:13; Rom. 7:14ff; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 1:8–10 |
| C. Genuine Humility: | Ps. 51:17; Matt. 5:1–12; James 4:6, 9ff. |
| D. Devotion to God's Glory: | Ps. 105:3; 115:1; Is. 43:7, 48:10ff.; Jer. 9:23, 24; 1 Cor. 10:31. |
| E. Continual Prayer: | Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18ff.; Phil. 4:6ff.; 1 Tim. 2:1–4; James 5:16–18 |
| F. Selfless Love: | 1 John 2:9ff, 3:14; 4:7ff. |
| G. Separation from the World: | 1 Cor. 2:12; James 4:4ff.; 1 John 2:15–17, 5:5 |
| H. Spiritual Growth: | Luke 8:15; John 15:1–6; Eph. 4:12–16 |
| I. Obedient Living: | Matt. 7:21; John 15:14ff.; Rom. 16:26; 1 Pet. 1:2, 22; 1 John 2:3–5 |

If List I is true of a person and List II is false, there is cause to question the validity of one's profession of faith. Yet if List II is true, then the top list will be also.²¹

²¹ John MacArthur Jr., ed., [The MacArthur Study Bible](#), electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 2191.