

Faith and Salvation

Introduction

Faith is a daily necessity whether one is getting married, taking a job, struggling with an illness, or overcoming a handicap. And faith in God is the cornerstone of all other faiths. As one psychiatrist says, "When I learn a patient has no faith in God, I dismiss the case. There is nothing to build on."

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Hebrews 11:6 But 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 diligently seek Him.

- 1. From this text we learn that faith is absolutely essential in the plan of salvation, for without faith, no man can please God. In this lesson we will consider how faith saves man.**

The Source of Faith

1. The Bible is the source of all religious faith.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 17:20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. Our religious beliefs cannot be based on human creeds and gain salvation for us.

Galatians 1:7-9

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....

3. Neither can we trust in our opinions for religious faith.

Jeremiah 10:23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

How We Are Justified by Faith

1. **When one accepts the Bible as the Word of God and is willing to believe its facts and obey its commands, he can be justified by faith.**
2. **What does the Bible teach that is necessary for one to be justified (forgiven of past sins)?**
 - A. **One is not saved by faith alone.**

It was once said that "There are two parts to the Gospel. The first part is believing it, and the second part is behaving it." The hearer only is the one who is satisfied with just believing without behaving. That is what James describes as dead faith

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

- B. **One must repent to be saved.**

Luke 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

- C. **One must confess Christ to be saved.**
Matthew 10:32-33
- D. **One must be baptized to be saved.**
Mark 16:16

E. When one's faith leads him this far, he is justified, saved from all past sin.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Illustration: When I become sick, I go to a certain doctor because I have faith in him and in his ability to make me well. What is the goal of placing my faith in the doctor?—my getting well. But is that faith enough?—no. I must also do all the things which the doctor asks me to do, take all the medicine, whether it is sweet or bitter. Just faith, abstract faith, will not reach its goal without my doing the things which the man in whom I place my faith asks me to do. As a result of that obedience I can reach the goal of my faith.

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Walking by Faith

1. **When one is justified by faith, he becomes a child of God and is added to the church.**

Acts 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

2. **Each church member must continue to walk by faith, be guided by God's Word in the life he lives.**

3. **To walk by faith the church member must:**

- A. **Attend all the services of the church when possible.**

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- B. **Give to God as he has been prospered.**

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- C. **Work faithfully and zealously in the Lord's service.**

1 Corinthians 15:58

- 1) **We need to ensure that we are doing what we are doing because of faith and not by sight!**

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight--

4. **Every church member who is faithful unto death will inherit eternal life.**

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

