

2. Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 20:20-21 “And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, (21) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, **and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

Jesus said

Mark 1:15 “And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, **and believe the gospel.**”

- a. Faith in Jesus Christ is a major requirement for Salvation; and plays a big part even after our redemption.

Romans 1:17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

- 1) We are SAVED through FAITH – Ephesians 2:8 (Our Salvation)
 - Faith in the Gospel

 - 2) We LIVE by FAITH – Galatians 2:20 (Our Sanctification)
 - Faith in Christ

 - 3) We PLEASE God by FAITH – Hebrews 11:6 (Our Walk with God)
 - Faith in God’s Character
- C. H. Mackintosh* “Faith glorifies God exceedingly, because it proves that we have more confidence in His eyesight than in our own.”
- 4) We are to KEEP the FAITH – 2 Timothy 4:7 (Scripture/Doctrine)
 - Faith in the Word

Note: The Salvation that we possess stems from divine doctrinal truths that we MUST BELIEVE and CONTEND FOR.

Jude 1:3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

b. **The Biblical definition of faith:**

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...”

- Faith is the “substance” of things hoped because we have it in writing.
 - The Word of God or Christ is the object of our faith.
 - Everybody has faith, but what they put their faith in, or what they believe will make all the difference.

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...”

- What do we hope for?
 - In the Promises of God. “Eternal Life”

Titus 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

- Eternal life is a buy-product of our Salvation.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is... the evidence of things not seen.”

- Faith is not blind, faith is based on Facts of God’s Word.
 - We were not there to see God create the World... Yet we believe in the Creator because creation point to Him.
 - We were not there to see Jesus Crucified... Yet we believe in Christ because the Scriptures testify of Him.

Robert Sargent Said “Faith is not a leap in the dark, but it is a leap in the Book.

John 20:29 “Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

William McDonald “Thomas' faith was not the kind that was most pleasing to the Lord. It was belief based on sight. The surest evidence is the Word of God. If God says a thing, we honor Him by believing it; but we dishonor Him by demanding additional evidence. We should believe simply because He said it and because He cannot lie or be mistaken.”

- Without God’s Word, there can be no true faith.
 - 1) Faith is calling and believing on the Lord Jesus alone for Salvation.

Romans 10:13-15 “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (14) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*”

2) Faith is submitting and resting in the Gospel of Christ.

Romans 10:16 “*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? (17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

3) Faith comes by hearing the Gospel.

Romans 10:17 “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

❖ Warren Wiersbe said “*True Bible faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances and consequences.*”

F – Forgetting

A – ALL

I – Impossibilities

T – Trusting

H – Him

c. **There are Four types of faith**

1) Devils Faith

James 2:19 “*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*”

- A mental consent of the Gospel is not enough to be saved. A belief in something is not in and of itself faith. A person may believe all the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God and still be lost.
- A person may believe that Jesus died for them, but they do not call on Him and trust.
- ❖ I believe that a plane can fly me to Israel, but my faith will not become a reality until I step out by faith and sit in the plane and trust the pilot to take me there.

2) Distorted Faith

- There are people who believe that they will be going to heaven because of their works. Keeping the Law. Etc.

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Acts 15:11 “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”

Galatians 3:14 “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

3) Dead Faith

James 2:17 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

TRUE FAITH IN CHRIST OBEYS GOD!

James 2:21-23 “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.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

- There are many professing Christians who are not saved because they are depending on a “Sinner Prayer”
- **Question:** Why is the sinner’s prayer dangerous?

Titus 1:15-16 “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. (16) They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

John 8:31-32 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2 Corinthian 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

4) Dependable Faith

➤ **Note:** Faith is not BASED on a FEELING!

Question: Why do you think people rely on their feelings when trying to work out their Salvation?

- Feeling based Salvation is not faith because it seeks to rest in the tangible — not in the things hoped for. (The Promises of God_
- **It depends on self instead of the Saviour.**

➤ Our Salvation is wholly dependable on Christ alone.

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

Fact



Acts 8:35 “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.”

Faith



Acts 8:36-37 “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (37) And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Feeling



Acts 8:38-39 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he

*baptized him. (39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: **and he went on his way rejoicing.***

➤ Faith is not BASED on WORKS

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast

Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (27) Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”

Romans 4:2-3 “For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. (3) For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”

d. The Old Testament saints were a perfect demonstration living by faith.

- The divine approval were upon the lives of those that lived by faith and obeyed the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:2 “For by it the elders obtained a good report.”

- ❖ ***CH Spurgeon said*** “The names of those who lived in old time are handed down with commendation because of their faith. If they had had no faith, we should have had no report of them.”

➤ In each instance, you will find the same workings of faith:

- (1) God speaks to them through His Word;
- (2) They were moved and stirred;
- (3) They obeyed God;
- (4) He testifies about them.

➤ Faith in God and in His Word moves a person to do whatever pleases God.

- i. Abel

Hebrews 11:4 "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain..."

ii. Enoch

Hebrews 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death..."

iii. Noah

Hebrews 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark..."

iv. Abraham

Hebrews 11:8 "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."

Hebrews 11:17 "'By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,"

v. Sara

Hebrews 11:11 "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."

vi. Isaac

Hebrew 11:20 "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."

vii. Jacob

Hebrew 11:21 "By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff."

viii. Joseph

Hebrew 11:22 'By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.'

ix. Moses

Hebrews 11:24 'By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;'

Hebrews 11:27 "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

Hebrews 11:29 "By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."

x. *The walls of Jericho*
Hebrews 11:30 'By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.'

xi. *Rahab*
Hebrews 11:31 "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."

❖ Ironside said *"No man in any dispensation honestly sought after God failed to find Him, for He always revealed Himself to faith."*

➤ It is important to understand that the elders were not given a good report because they were doing wonderful works, but rather it was because they believed God.

Genesis 15:6 "And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

❖ **Hudson Taylor said,** *"You do not need a Great Faith, you need Faith in a Great God"*

e. Faith is NOT a WORK!!!

- One of the reason Calvinist's believe that Faith is the gift of God is because they think if we do the believing then we have something to boast in.

❖ **Illustration** on "closet Calvinist" by John MacArthur (Clip)

- **In Ephesians 2:8-9**, Calvinists teach that faith is a gift from God, and it is God who enables a person to believe. It is God who gifts His chosen ones with faith to believe on Jesus.

- **John MacArthur said states regarding Ephesians 2:8-9.** That refers to the entire previous statement of salvation, not only the grace but also the faith. Although people are required to believe for salvation, even that faith is part of the gift of God which saves and cannot be exercised by one's own power.

- **Verse 29 found in Philippians** was used by to prove that God is the one that gives us the faith to believe.

Philippians 1:29 "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;"

- This verse is clearly saying that we not only have the privilege to believe on the Lord, but also, we have the privilege to suffer for His sake.

❖ **Moses is a perfect example:**

Hebrews 11:24-26 “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; (25) Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; (26) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

f. **Believing on the Lord is personal decision.**

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

➤ **Positive examples**

1) The Philippians Jailor

Acts 16:30-31 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? (31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

2) The Disciples

John 6:28-29 “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

3) The two great examples recorded in the Gospels. (Jesus was astonished at their faith)

i. *The Centurion, Matthew 8:5-10*

ii. *The Canaanite Woman, Matthew 15:22-28*

4) The sick man with his helpers

Mark 2:5 “When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”

➤ **Negative examples** (Not that they can't believe, they will not believe)

1) Judas

John 6:64 “But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.”

2) Chief Priests and the scribes

Luke 22:67 “Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:”

3) The Nation of Israel

Matthew 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

John 1:11-12 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. (12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

g. **The Result of not believing on the Lord.**

1) Condemnation

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 “That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

2) Judgment

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

3) Lake of Fire – Second Death

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving...and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.