

FAITH, THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD

Faith is the instrumental gift of God given to us so that we may receive all of the benefits of justification, sanctification and adoption.

- Faith comes by “hearing” (giving attention to, cf, Lk 16:31) and believing true doctrine, statements, propositions (i.e., “words”; *Logos*) from and about the man, *Jesus Christ*. (*Rom 10:17*)
- *Damnation comes by not “hearing” or believing (but rejecting cf. Matt 13:13-15) true words spoken by and about the man, Jesus Christ.*
- The Spirit, who works in us for justification, sanctification and adoption comes to those, and is at work only in those who embrace or believe those words (1 Cor 6:11; Gal 3:2)
- Transformation into the image of Jesus and fruit bearing is a result of ongoing belief in the propositions set forth in the bible (John 15:5; 1 Tim 4:16; 1 Pet 2:1-12; Jam 1:18).

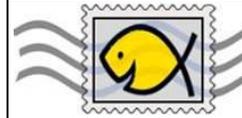
Therefore,

A Christians is someone who is saved and kept by believing true words from and about Jesus. Anything less is unbelief, anything more is beyond belief.

“Faith alone” saves because of what it makes possible.

What follows from saving faith is the evidence of our faith.

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:8



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

SAVING FAITH



**WORDS JUSTIFY AND WORDS CONDEMN: IN OTHER
WORDS, WORDS MATTER.**

SAVING FAITH

Heb 11:1-13

To be justified is to be saved (Rom 10:10). To be sanctified is to be saved (2 Thes 2:13). To be adopted is to be saved (Eph 1:5-7). But how do we come by these things? By the gracious gift of faith. (Eph 2:8)

WHAT IS FAITH?

- Being convinced of “things” upon which we build our hopes; being sure of Him who is unseen. (Heb 11:1,27)

“Faith apprehends as a real fact what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it.” (*Vincent's Word Studies* Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. Baldwin Professor of Sacred Literature in Union Theological Seminary New York.)

- Being convinced of a proposition (Heb 11:3)

As an example, the author of Hebrews uses a proposition which all of the readers would be familiar with. The proposition is, “The universe was created by the word of God out of nothing...”

- Giving assent to that proposition.

1. What are the two propositions which constitute faith in verse 6?

Observe the propositions that each historical figure responded to from Heb 11:7-13

Therefore,

Faith is the simple assent or agreement with a statement, proposition, doctrine or creed.

Consider the **object** of faith in the following verses: John 2:22; 4:39-42; 4:50-53; 8:31-32; 11:26-27; Acts 4:4; 1 Cor 15:1-2

BELIEF IN A PERSON OR A CREED?

There is no antithesis between believing Jesus as a person and believing what He says. (Jhn 4:21; 8:45)

Discuss the following statements:

- “A personal relationship is necessary for salvation”

- “Ask not what you believe, but whom do you trust”

- “Some people will miss heaven by twelve inches”

Therefore,

Mindless, emotive encounters and meaningless relationships are not saving faith. Truth is propositional and one is saved and sanctified only through believing true statements spoken in the bible (Jhn 17:6-8, 17).

“...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

- Faith is not, as W.E. Vine suggests, “Conviction...surrender... conduct...” (173-174)
- Faith is intellectual assent to words, to which the whole person responds with agreement.

YOUR CONFESSION MATTERS!