

GREAT Faith

The Title – based on two passages

1. Mt.8:10, Centurion
2. Mt.15:28, Canaanite (mother)

“Why do you believe all these things in the Bible?”

“That’s where faith comes in” ? ?

Faith in our faith is the wrong answer

Faith comes from evidence, not wishes

- Universe
- Bible
- Prophecy
- Eyewitness testimony, etc.

Faith is not . . .

1. blind.
2. alone.
3. in men.
4. denominational opinion.
5. wild wishing; name and claim.
6. detached from word of God. Ro.10:17

Faith is . . .

1. Conviction

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

2. Trust

But since we have the same spirit of faith,
according to what is written, “I believed and
therefore I spoke...” – 2 Co.4:13

3. Obedience

For we walk by faith, not by sight – 2 Co.5:7

‘Get it in writing’

Clerk: ‘You owe \$...’

- ‘I paid that bill’

Clerk: ‘No you did not’

- ‘I have my receipt’

- Living by word of God is ‘getting it in writing’
 - We show our faith by believing in God ... Jesus ... Bible ... truth ... etc.

I. Faith Is Active, Ja.2:14-17

Faith alone is like . . .

- Feeding the poor with pretty words
- Can that faith save him (14)?
 - James 2:17 – dead
 - James 2:20 – dead (or: idle)
 - James 2:26 – dead

Parallel passages agree

- Jn.6:27, labor for food that endures... (28-29)
- Jn.8:30-31...44, believe, yet children of devil (cf. Ja.2:19)
- Jn.12:42-43, did faith alone helped rulers?
- Ac.2:37, “what shall we do?”

Know
assuredly (36)

Cut to
the heart (37)

Rep. & Bap.
after faith (38)

“By faith” / “Through faith”

NOT faith alone

- Ro.1:17, live “by faith”
- Hb.11:4, “by faith” Abel offered...

I. Faith Is Active

II. Faith Is Anything God
Makes It, Ja.2:21

Ja.2:21 = Gn.22

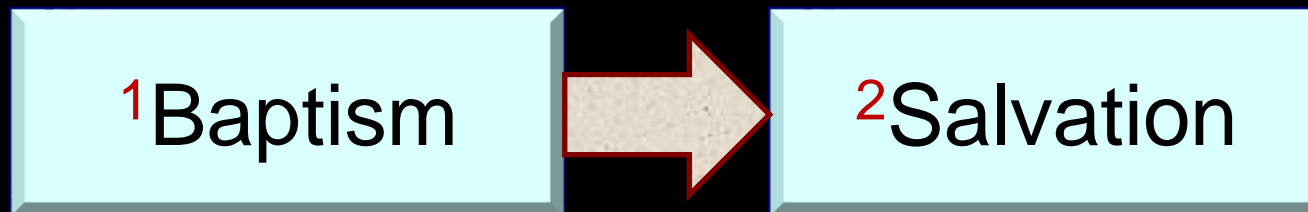
Faith always does anything God says

- Nu.21, look at brazen serpent?
- 2 K.5, dip in Jordan seven times?
- Jn.9, water for blindness?
- Mk.16:16, belief and baptism save?

Ja.2:21 = Gn.22

Unbelievers balk at what God says

- “I was baptized, so if it is essential, I won’t miss heaven”
- 5199 – 5991 – 1959 ? ? sequence matters
- Cake: flour, mix, cook . . . later add eggs??
- Car: leave windows down at car wash?
- The biblical order...



I. Faith Is Active

II. Faith Is Anything God Makes It

III. Faith Is All-Inclusive

Abraham

- The commencement, Gn.12:1-7 – Go
- The climax, Gn.22:1-14 – Go slay son

Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? – Ja.2:22

1. Faith existed prior to the works
2. Faith was completed by works
3. Faith would be useless without works
4. Faith summarizes all his works (v.23)

Abraham, Ja.2:22-23

Unbeliever's response:

“Works justified Abraham before men”

1. What men?
2. Consequences of claim:

Faith that
justifies before
men must WORK

Faith that
justifies before
God is DEAD??

You see then that **a man** is **justified by**
works, and **not by faith only** – v.24 (25)

I. Faith Is Active

II. Faith Is Anything God Makes It

III. Faith Is All Inclusive

IV. Faith Does Accurately
Whatever God says, Ja.2:25

Rahab, a Gentile, demonstrates more faith than many religious people

Joshua 2

1. 18, scarlet cord (green? . . . towel?)
2. 18, window (door?)
3. 18, bring family into her house (parents?)
4. 19, remain inside (except for recreation?)
5. 20, do not reveal plans (unless asked?)

**Failure in one part would
doom her in everything**

Leviticus 10

Unbelief says: “fire is fire” [16:12]

1. Baptism, Ac.8; Ro.6

Sprinkling: another action.
'Because of salvation': another purpose.

2. Sing, make melody in heart, Ep.5:19

Playing mechanical music is not exact.

3. Lord's Supper, first day of week, Ac.20

Another day / other elements
cannot be by faith

Moses and the rock, Numbers 20

1. Speak to rock
2. Moses hit rock

“But it got results!”

Do ends justify the means?

- It is not enough merely to produce results
- God wants obedience
- Moses did not enter promised land

Populate
earth

Church
growth

Spread
gospel

“But I believe the pious unimmersed are saved”

- “I believe” expresses faith
- But Ro.10:17 . . . how?
- One may wish...presume...teach it, but one cannot believe without Scripture [walking by sight, not faith]