

Saved by Faith

There is a large following of those who teach that salvation is more than faith alone in Christ alone.

On the surface they appear to believe and teach that salvation is only through Christ and His work on the cross.

But add a little more to the way of salvation by saying Believing in Christ means a whole lot more than just faith.

Here is what someone has said about faith

“Saving faith is no simple thing. It has many dimensions. Believe on the Lord Jesus is a massive command. It contains a hundred other things. Unless we see this, the array of conditions for salvation in the New Testament will be utterly perplexing.”

They use terms like: Enduring Faith, Saving Faith, Final Salvation

They use scripture to back up what they are saying like;

John 2:23-24

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

John 7:2-5

Now the Jew's feast of tabernacles was at hand.

³ His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.

⁴ For there is no man that doeth anything in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.

⁵ For neither did his brethren believe in him.

John 6:35

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

³⁶ But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

Does the Bible teach that eternal salvation is conditioned on the moment of initial faith in Christ or on continual belief throughout one's lifetime?

Today I would like to help you have a clear understanding of your Salvation in Jesus Christ... Am I saved or not.

To understand all of what salvation means we must understand

All the aspects of Salvation... Not conconditions

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

Today we want to understand Justification.

In the Gospel of John there are many illustrations of those who saw Jesus, but didn't quite know what they should do with Him...

Lets Look at

John 3:1-21

There was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.** ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "**Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.**"

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh,

and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.

Who was Nicodemus?

Pharisee

Teacher

What did he think of Jesus?

Rabbi = Teacher

Miracle worker

What did he want from Jesus at this moment

To know why he had so much power and authority to do the signs that only God gives to man.

Mark 8:11-12

¹¹Then the Pharisees came out and began to dispute with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, testing Him. ¹²But He sighed deeply in His spirit, and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation."

To know if he was the Messiah, come to deliver Israel.

Jesus saw the heart of Nicodemus... That is why he avoided his statement and went straight to the problem.

Nicodemus did not see Jesus as Lord and Savior and had not confessed Him as such.

Nicodemus had not been born again!

Nicodemus did not understand what the Savior was talking about! Jesus was speaking about a spiritual birth, but Nicodemus thought only of a physical birth.

*Jesus was dealing with his spiritual problem
But He was only looking at the physical*

*The emphasis in John 3:14–21 is on believing,
because salvation comes through faith*

Eph. 2:8–9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The evidence of salvation is the witness of the Spirit within

Rom. 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies ^[d]through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The Spirit enters your life the moment you believe

Acts 10:43–48

To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission^[n] of sins.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And ^[o]those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Eph. 1:13–14

*In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ **who^[d] is the ^[e]guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.***

When you were born you became your mother and father’s child...

You did not become their child after you learned to obey them, or even learn to truly love them.

You are their child the moment you are born no matter what.

In the same manner you are a child of God the moment you are born again.

Galatians 3:26

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

The thief on the cross...

Being born again or being saved is a onetime event, not a lifelong process that those who teach Enduring Faith would have you believe.

Let me add this to being born again...

I believe your salvation experience should be something you remember.

Maybe not every detail but you remember a time in which you understood you are a sinner, Christ died for

your sin, you believed and put your full trust in Him for Salvation.

If you are not sure of a specific time in which you were saved you may need to do some soul searching as to are you saved.

John 3:14-16

*And as Moses **lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should ^[c]not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

The moment you believe you are saved you are justified

Justification

Justification is an important doctrine in the Bible.

Justification is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous on the basis of Christ's finished work on the cross. It is not a process; it is an act.

It is not something the sinner does; it is something God does for the sinner when he trusts Christ. It is a once-for-all event. It never changes.

This is the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Romans 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 John 5:13

*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

Next week

Sanctification

But there is also a practical lesson here, for we can have a spiritual “transfiguration” experience each day as we walk with the Lord. Romans 12:1–2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 tell us how. As we surrender body, mind, and will, the Lord transforms us from within so that we are not conformed to the world. As we behold Him in the Word (the mirror), we are “transfigured” by the Spirit “from glory to glory.” The theological name for this experience is sanctification, the process by which we become more like the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the Father’s goal for each of His children (Rom. 8:19; 1 John 3:2). Note that our Lord was once again praying, which suggests that prayer is one of the keys to a transformed life.

Glorification

*The believer must grow in his knowledge of God. To know God personally is salvation (John 17:3). To know Him increasingly is sanctification (Phil. 3:10). To know Him perfectly is glorification
1Corinthians 13:9-12*

⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹ Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man ^[b] who is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should ^[c] not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

James 5:14- faith by works... work show faith

Mary bore other children, with Joseph as their natural father (Matt. 13:55–56; Mark 6:1–6), so Jesus would have been their half-brother. It seems incredible that His brothers could have lived with Him all those years and not realized the uniqueness of His person.

Certainly they knew about His miracles (see John 7:3–4) since everybody else did. Having been in the closest contact with Him, they had the best opportunity to watch Him and test Him, yet they were still unbelievers.

Here were men going up to a religious feast, yet rejecting their own Messiah! How easy it is to follow tradition and miss eternal truth. The publicans and sinners were rejoicing at His message, but His own half-brothers were making fun of Him.

These men certainly had the world’s point of view: if you want to get a following, use your opportunities to do something spectacular. Jerusalem would be crowded with pilgrims, and this would give Jesus the ideal “platform” to present Himself and win disciples. No doubt the brothers knew that the multitude of disciples had deserted Jesus (John 6:66).

This was His opportunity to recoup His losses. Satan had offered a similar suggestion three years before (Matt. 4:1ff.).

Jesus had already turned down the crowd’s offer to make Him king (John 6:15), and He was not about to yield to them in any way. Celebrities might ride to success

on the applause of the crowd, but God's servants know better. By doing miracles during the feast, at the "official city," Jesus could muster a crowd, reveal Himself as Messiah, and overcome the enemy. The suggestion,

of course, came from hearts and minds blinded by unbelief. This unbelief had been prophesied in Psalm 69:8—"I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children." (Since Jesus was not Joseph's natural son, He could not say "My father's children.")

It was not the right time for Jesus to show Himself to the world (John 14:22ff.). One day He shall return, and "every eye shall see him" (Rev. 1:7). We have noticed that our Lord lived on a "divine timetable" that was marked out by the Father (John 2:4; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1; 17:1).

Jesus was exercising caution because He knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Him. Though they were "religious" leaders, they were a part of "the world" that hated Jesus because He exposed their evil works. By His character and His ministry, He revealed the shallowness and emptiness of their futile religious system; He called the people back to the reality of life in God. History reveals that the "religious system" often persecutes the very prophets of God who are sent to save it!

Some manuscripts do not have the word yet in John

7:8, but its absence does not alter the thrust of the statement. Jesus was certainly not lying or being evasive; rather, He was exercising sensible caution.

Suppose He told His brothers His plans, and they told somebody else? Could the information possibly get to the leaders? "I am going to the feast when the right time comes," is what He said. After His family had gone, Jesus went to Jerusalem "under cover," so as not to call attention to Himself.

In our Lord's actions, we see a beautiful illustration of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. The Father had a plan for His Son, and nothing could spoil that plan. Jesus did not tempt the Father by rushing to the feast, nor did He lag behind when the proper time had come for Him to attend the feast. It requires spiritual discernment to know God's timing.

How was Abraham "justified by works" (James 2:21) when he had already been "justified by faith" (see Rom. 4)? By faith, he was justified before God and his righteousness declared; by works he was justified before men and his righteousness demonstrated.

There is a perfect relationship between faith and works. As someone has expressed it, "Abraham was not saved by faith plus works, but by a faith that works."

How can you tell if a person is justified by faith if this transaction takes place between the sinner and

God privately? Abraham's example answers that important question: the justified person has a changed life and obeys God's will. His faith is demonstrated by his works.

The child inherits the nature of the parents, and so does the child of God. We become "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Nature determines appetite, which explains why the Christian has an appetite for the things of God (1 Peter 2:2–3). He has no desire to go back to the foul things of the world that once appealed to him (2 Peter 2:20–22). He feeds on the Word of God and grows into spiritual maturity (Heb. 5:11–14).