

Faith, True and Genuine

Hebrews 11:1 – 3

There are many forms of false faith by which mankind has deluded. There are many accounts of people having faith, but many have false faith. Many people have a "denominational" faith, they have a "traditional" faith, the "I grew-up believing" faith. I do not want to say that their faith is without sincerity, devotion, and zeal. But unless they have that faith, which is described in the Word of God, their faith is damning to their souls. James tells us that even the devils have faith and trembled. **James 2:19** *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”* But they did not have God given saving faith. But what is that true and genuine, God saving faith, that faith by which a man pleases God?

- True and genuine faith is not within human ability, it is a God gift to us. While people have faith, they do not have saving faith, saving faith is a Spiritual gift. **1 Corinthians 2:4 - 5** *“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: (5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”* – (enticing words means – persuasive words, Vines says – to lure by bait) which means there are no words within human power to cause saving faith.) – (The word “demonstration” means - manifestation, or revelation – which is also proof that saving faith come to us only by the Holy Spirit.
- Paul wrote in Galatians 5:22 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”* (fruit of the Spirit means – that these things are no natural, the Holy Spirit produces these fruits for us. While man naturally has faith as well as these other fruits, they do not have them to satisfy God. Sin has destroyed everything good in man.
- It takes a special faith to be godly, mankind has no ability to believe in the True Sovereign God or His Son Jesus, they believe only in themselves, this is why Paul preached against *“enticing words of man's wisdom”*. These folks in Chapter 11 had a God gifted faith to follow and respond to God.

A. What is True and Genuine Faith? **Heb 11:1** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

1. A.H. Strong's defines it as - persuasion, that is, moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God) – Vines defines it as – a firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing, in the New Testament it is always used of faith in God or Christ Jesus or Spiritual things.
 2. Paul wrote in **Romans 3:23 - 25** "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (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;*" – The faith is in His blood as a pardon for our sins, there is no other pardon.
 3. **Colossians 1:19 - 20** "*For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; (20) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*" – there is no peace with God without our cleansing, unless we are completely sinless, and that cleansing is only in Christ Jesus's blood. Only with true and genuine faith can one believe this.
 4. Faith comes by the power of the Holy Spirit through hearing God's word. **Romans 10:16 - 17** "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." Jesus said many times that hearing ears were different than natural ears. **Matthew 11:15** "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
 5. You cannot have faith if you cannot comprehend what is being said.
- B. One will not respond to God if they do not have True and Genuine Faith.
1. These folks in Chapter 11 and others reacted by faith.
 2. 16 times in Hebrews 11 alone people obeyed God by faith, we find these strong words in **Hebrews 10:38** "*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*" This verse comes from **Habakkuk 2:4** "*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*" The "just" are the redeemed, they shall live daily by faith. This is not a salvation scripture but rather a daily walk scripture.

3. Our dependence is on God through faith in our life. But we must realize this is a constant dependence on God, realizing that we cannot survive without.
4. By faith believing the scriptures as God's Word, believing its contents as Holy and without doubt. Not a casual believer, but a serious believer as life altering.
5. Lacking in faith is not living by faith. **Matthew 8:24 - 27** "*And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. (25) And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. (26) And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. (27) But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!*"
6. Our faith is not always as strong as it should be, **Matthew 6:30** "*Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*" Our worries are a show of our lack of faith. **Matthew 6:25** "*Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"*

C. Faith is necessary because salvation is by grace and faith alone.

1. The grace of God is the reason the Holy Spirit brings us faith. While Grace is not our salvation, it explains why the Holy Spirit saves our souls in Jesus Christ. **Romans 4:16** "*Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,"* Grace delivers faith because "...to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed..." those of God's ordained will and promise to His Son. Salvation is NOT in mans hands!
2. **Galatians 5:2 - 4** "*Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. (3) For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. (4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*" – the words "...fallen from grace..." means – Grace has be driven out of one's course;

figuratively grace has become inefficient to you.- Grace becomes irrelevant because of your works, which renders Jesus actions on the cross worthless.

3. This last verse is the cherry on the ice cream, there is no refuting it! **2 Timothy 1:9** *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”*