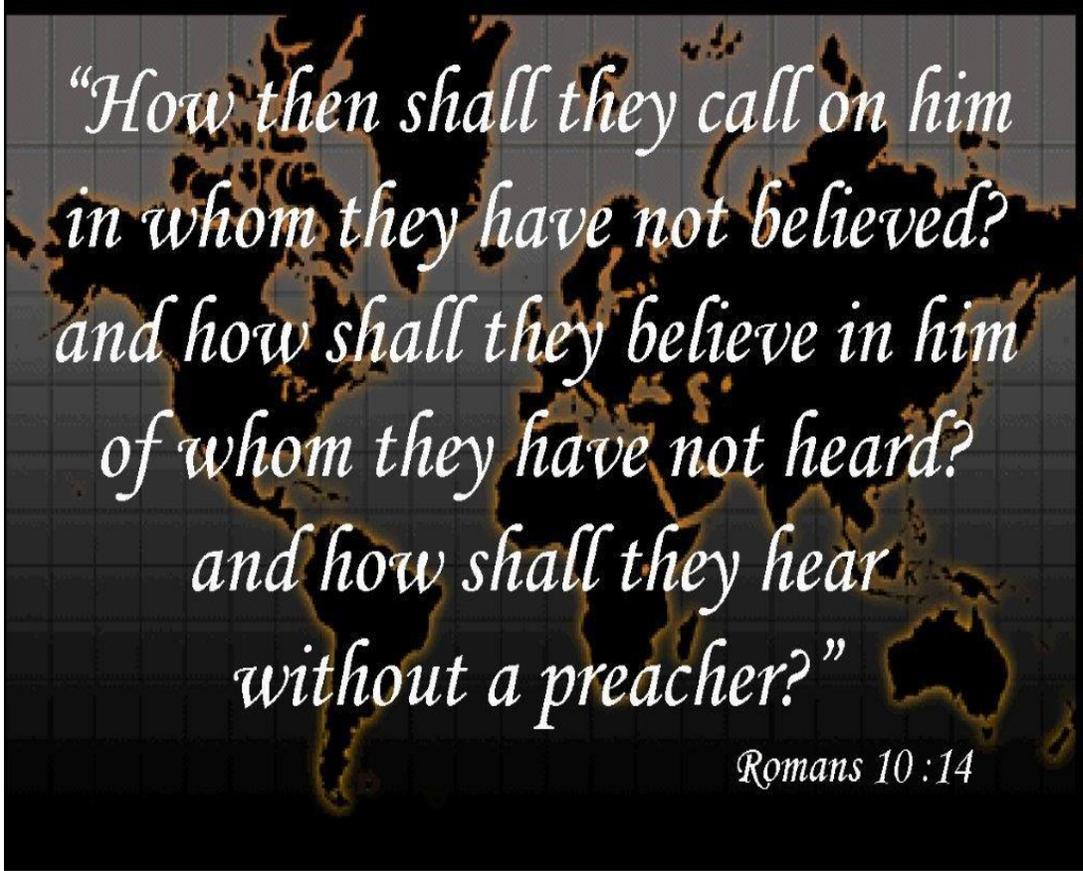


What every Christian Ought To Know.
#8 ABOUT FAITH AND HOW TO HAVE IT!

- (Matt. 9:29) ***“...It shall be done to you according to your faith.”***
- *“Pray, believe; and you’ll receive.*
- *Pray, and doubt; you’ll do without.”*



*“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?”*

Romans 10 :14

“FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD”

- Notice: (Eph. 2:8-9) *“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.”*
- Our response in salvation is “FAITH,” but even that is “NOT OF OURSELVES” [but is] “THE GIFT OF GOD.” FAITH is nothing that we do in our own power or resources. Bedside's, God wouldn't want us to rely on them even if we had them. Otherwise, salvation would be in part by our own works, and we would have some ground to boast in ourselves. PAUL intends to emphasize that even faith is not from us apart from GOD'S GIVING IT.
- If salvation is of grace, it has to be an “UNDESERVED GIFT OF GOD.” Faith is presented as a gift from God in (Phil.1:29), (Phil.2:13), (2 Tim. 2:25-26)
- Notice; (2 Pet. 1:1) *“Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ”*

- **EVERY PERSON LIVES BY FAITH IN SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE.**

When we go across a bridge, we trust it to support us. When we put our money in the bank, we trust it will be safe. Life is a constant series of acts of faith. No human being, no matter how skeptical and self-reliant, could live a day without exercising faith.

- **HOWEVER, IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT WHEN IT COMES TO "SAVING FAITH."**

Church membership, baptism, confirmation, giving to charity, and being a good neighbor have no power to bring salvation. Nor does taking Communion, keeping the Ten Commandments, or living by the Sermon on the Mount. The only thing a person can do that will have any part in salvation is to **exercise faith in what Jesus Christ has done for him.**

- **WHEN WE ACCEPT THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON OUR BEHALF,** we act by the faith supplied by God's grace. That is the supreme act of human faith, the act which, though it is ours, is primarily God's—**HIS GIFT TO US OUT OF HIS GRACE.**

- When a person chokes or drowns and stops breathing, there is nothing he can do. If he ever breathes again it will be because someone else starts him breathing.
- **A PERSON WHO IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD** cannot even make a decision of faith unless God first breathes into him the breath of spiritual life.
- **FAITH IS SIMPLY BREATHING THE BREATH THAT GOD'S GRACE SUPPLIES.** Yet, the paradox is that we must exercise it and bear the responsibility if we do not.
- **Notice: (Jn. 5:40) “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**
- **OBVIOUSLY**, if it is true that salvation is all by God's grace, it is therefore **not as a result of works**. Human effort has nothing to do with it (**cf. Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16**). And thus, **no one should boast**, as if he had any part in it. All boasting is eliminated in salvation. (**cf. Rom. 3:27; 4:5; 1 Cor. 1:31**). Nevertheless, good works have an important place, as Paul is quick to affirm.

BLESSINGS OF FAITH!

1. **SALVATION**- Notice: (Rom. 5:1) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” Notice that word “Justified.” It’s an act of God by which He declares righteous those who, through faith in Christ, **repent** of their sins and **confess** Him as Sovereign Lord. (Rom. 10:9-10)
2. **SANCTIFICATION**- Notice: (Acts. 26:18) “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”
3. **VICTORY OVER THE WORLD**- Notice: (1 Jn. 5:4) “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” This doesn’t mean you will never loose “a” battle with temptation, and sin. It means through Christ and His provision of salvation; the believer is a “Victor” over the invisible system of demonic and human evil that Satan operates to capture men’s souls for hell.

4. **VICTORY OVER SATAN**- Notice: (Eph. 6:16) “in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”
5. **VICTORY OVER THE FLESH**- Notice: (1 Cor. 10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”
6. **VICTORY OVER DEATH**- Notice: (1 Thess. 4:13) “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”
7. **THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT**- Notice: (Gal. 3:14) “in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

BURDEN'S OF NO-FAITH!

1. WORRY- “God you're not big enough to handle this.” Which in turns “has been proven” to cause all sorts of health problems.
2. LONELINESS- God seems distant, and your desire to interact with anything spiritual diminishes.
3. GUILT- Our guilt gland is overactive because we do not trust God for (total) cleansing. Faith is our acceptance of God’s acceptance of us.
4. DISOBEDIENCE- If You truly believed God’s word you wouldn’t violate it.

**“THE
REALITY OF
BIBLICAL
FAITH”**

- **YOUR FAITH IS NO BETTER THAN ITS OBJECT.**
- Anytime you find yourself at a cross-road there will always be that one friend that say’s **“Brother you just need to have faith, or all you have to do is believe.”** When this happens don’t be **“DUPED.”** There is nothing magical or mystical about **“believing”** because there is no power in faith alone.
 - **Notice (Rom. 10:11)** *“For the Scripture says, **“WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”**”*
 - **Notice: (Mk. 11:22)** *“And Jesus answered saying to them, **“Have faith in God.”**”*

- It's not **YOUR FAITH** that moves mountains. **IT IS GOD** that moves mountains, so you can't put "faith in faith" either. Remember we are not relying on "positive thinking," your "Feelings," or the fact that your faith may be "weak." The **least** amount of faith in the **right object** is better than **strong** faith in the **wrong object**.
- THE **OBJECT** OF "**REAL**" FAITH is not self, someone, or service. The object of "real faith" is the **SAVIOR JESUS THE CHRIST**. Notice: (Heb. 12:2) *"fixing (looking) our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,..."*
- Notice; (Dan.11:32) *"...but the people who know their God will display strength and take action."*
- Notice: (Psa. 19:10) *"And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You."*

“*THE* ROOT OF BIBLICAL FAITH”

- **All true biblical faith is rooted** not only in **KNOWING** God but in **HEARING** from the God that you know.
- **Notice: (Rom. 10:14-18)** “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? **15** How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” **16** However, **they did not all heed the good news**; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” **17** **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ-(The Gospel)**. **18** But I say, surely, they have never heard, have they? Indeed, they have; “THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.”

HOW TO HAVE A *VICTORIOUS* FAITH.

1. **BE *SATURATED* WITH THE SCRIPTURES.** Remember that faith comes by hearing from God.
2. **BE *DEDICATED* TO THE SAVIOR.** Remember faith is no better than its object. It's not about having a "great faith," it's about having a "GREAT FAITH IN GOD."
3. **BE *SEPARATED* FROM SIN.** Unconfessed sin is a "FAITH KILLER."
4. **BE *ACTIVATED* BY THE SPIRIT.** Faith without works is dead. Your faith needs legs on it.