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What is Saving Faith?

John 1:12-13

¹²But to all who did receive him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever **believes** in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ...

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Belief is...





Belief is...

- to accept something as true, genuine, or real**



Belief is...

- to accept something as true, genuine, or real**
- to have firm conviction as to the goodness, efficacy, or ability of something**

Saving Faith





Saving Faith

1. Belief

John 14:1

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. **Trust** in God: **trust** also in me.”

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1 Peter 2:6

⁶For in Scripture it says: " See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who **trusts** in him will never be put to shame."

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Trust is... (as a noun)

- **Assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, truth of someone or something**
- **Dependence on something future or contingent**



Trust is... (as a verb)

- **To commit or place in one's care or keeping**
- **To rely on the truthfulness or accuracy of**
- **To place confidence in**
- **To hope or expect confidently**



Saving Faith

1. Belief

2. Trust

John 3:16, 36

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever **believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

³⁶Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

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Hebrews 5:9

⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who **obey** him, ...

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Obedience is...

- to follow the command or guidance of
- to conform to or comply with



Saving Faith

1. Belief

2. Trust

3. Obedience



**“When a man obeys God
he gives the only possible
evidence that in his heart
he believes God.”**

W.E.Vine

Vine's Expository Dictionary
of New Testament Words



“No one can actually believe the truth about Him without trusting Him by intending to obey Him.”

Dallas Willard, in

“Renovation of the Heart”



Saving Faith

1. Belief

2. Trust

3. Obedience



Trust God with Intangibles

- 1. Justification**
- 2. Salvation**
- 3. Resurrection**
- 4. Heaven**



**Do We Trust
God with the
Tangibles?**



Do we trust God with:

- 1. Careers - Purpose**
- 2. Clocks - Time**
- 3. Coins - Money**



God's Portion

Genesis 3:1-7 (CSB)

Genesis 3:1-7

¹Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

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Genesis 3:1-7

²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.

³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.' "

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Genesis 3:1-7

⁴"No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵"In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

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Genesis 3:1-7

⁶The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

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Genesis 3:1-7

⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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Genesis 3:1-7

¹Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

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God's Portion





God's Portion

1. **First Born**
2. **First Fruit**
3. **First City - Jericho**

**Jesus was "God's Portion"
given to us!**



God's Portion

1 Cor. 15:19-20

¹⁹If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

²⁰But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.



God's Portion

1. **First Born**
2. **First Fruit**
3. **First City - Jericho**

**God's Portion later
becomes the "Tithe"**



God's Portion

Proverbs 3:9-10

**⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
¹⁰then your barns will be filled to
overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with
new wine.**



God's Portion

Malachi 3:8-10

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.

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Malachi 3:8-10

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

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God's Portion

Why?



God's Portion

- **Gift vs. Giver**
- **Possession vs. Possessor**
- **Inward Focus vs. Outward Focus**

Occasional Giving:

varying amount given when able

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Occasional Giving:

varying amount given when able

Faithful Giving:

certain amount given regularly

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Occasional Giving:

varying amount given when able

Faithful Giving:

certain amount given regularly

Tithes:

10% to the church

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Occasional Giving:

varying amount given when able

Faithful Giving:

certain amount given regularly

Tithes:

10% to the church

Offerings:

over & above giving/tithe

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- **Everyone becomes a “faithful giver”**
- **More move from faithful giving to tithing**
- **Everyone give over & above to:**
 1. **Building Tomorrow Today**
 2. **Global Missions Offering**
 3. **Christmas In July**
- **Consider Legacy Giving**



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