

## Soteriology – The Doctrine of Salvation

### What is Faith?

The word faith or believe comes from two Greek words:

Pistis is the noun, translated *faith*. It is defined as “conviction of the truth of anything”.

Pisteuo is the verb, translated *believe*. It is defined, “to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to place confidence in”.

The best Biblical definition is found in Hebrews 11:1:

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

The Bible also tells us what faith is not in Romans 4:1-5:

*Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.*

Works and faith are not compatible for justification:

*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Romans 3:28  
Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. Galatians 2:16*

Faith has been redefined in today's theologies to include commitment, obedience, and perseverance

Theological modifiers for faith:

<i>Positive:</i>	<i>Negative:</i>	
<i>Saving faith</i>	<i>Spurious faith</i>	<i>False faith</i>
<i>Repentant faith</i>	<i>Unsaving faith</i>	<i>Head faith</i>
<i>True faith</i>	<i>Demon faith</i>	<i>Cheap faith</i>
<i>Heart faith</i>	<i>Temporary faith</i>	

None of these modifiers are found in the Bible!

They are theological words used to redefine the true meaning of faith! Out of 245 uses of the word “faith” in the Bible, only five times are adjectives of quality used with it (1 Tim. 1:5, 2 Pet. 1:1, Jude 20, James 2:17, James 2:26). Faith can be *sincere, precious, holy, or unproductive (dead)*. All these contexts are speaking to and about believers. In the Bible, faith is faith!

**The real question is “what is the object of your faith” not, “how good is your faith.”**

### What is Justification?

Justification is a declaration by God that the believer has been made forever right and acceptable to Himself. A justified state must be unchangeable since the ground upon which it rests is eternally secured by the finished work of Christ.

*Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24*

If we are declared righteous the moment we believe, *and we are*, then faith cannot mean commitment, obedience or perseverance! Justification is clearly a courtroom concept. Justification does not make believers righteous in the sense that they no longer sin. We are declared righteous in God's sight by our union with Christ.

### Am I Eternally Secure?

- 1 – The nature of the life that is given. It is *eterna!*
- 2 – Eternal life is a present possession! John 5:24 and 6:47.
- 3 – Eternal life is a gift! Ephesians 2:8-9
- 4 – Eternal life is received by faith and not by works. How can it be received as a gift and then be

kept by works?

5 – Our security depends on the strength of God! John 10:27-30.

6 – Our security depends on His faithfulness not ours. 2 Timothy 2:11-13.

7 – We are the objects of God's love! Romans 8:37-39.

8 – Our glorification is already accomplished! Romans 8:29-30

**If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone for the gift of eternal life, then you are secure!**

***“Redeemed by His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am”.***

Fanny J. Crosby