FAITH

CHRISTIAN VIRTUE: PART I

NOVEMBER 2026
PASTOR BEN

1 CORINTHIANS 13:11

11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12

12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

“Virtues are cultivated habits that align us with who God creates us to be.”

—Alan Noble (*To Live Well*)

FAITH IS NOT…

1. The opposite of evidence assessment.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS NOT…

1. The opposite of evidence assessment.
2. A leap in the dark.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS NOT…

1. The opposite of evidence assessment.
2. A leap in the dark.
3. The opposite of works.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS NOT…

1. The opposite of evidence assessment.
2. A leap in the dark.
3. The opposite of works.
4. Reducible to intellectual assent.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS…

1. **Mental Affirmation** that the gospel is true.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS…

1. **Mental Affirmation** that the gospel is true.
2. **Professed Fealty** to Jesus alone as the cosmic Lord.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

FAITH IS…

1. **Mental Affirmation** that the gospel is true.
2. **Professed Fealty** to Jesus alone as the cosmic Lord.
3. **Enacted Loyalty** through obedience to Jesus as the king.

MATTHEW BATES
SALVATION BY ALLEGIANCE ALONE

“Our spiritual growth and formation are not primarily about our growth or our formation. Spiritual formation is about God—who he is and what he has done for us—and about how, in Christ Jesus, by his Spirit, we can know life, holiness, and righteousness. Spiritual formation is about putting our faith and hope in God, loving him with our whole heart, and loving our neighbor as ourself.

—Kyle Strobel (*When God Seems Distant*)

We are formed in his life, by his life, for life with him as we are filled with his Spirit… Our formation is the fruit of the union we have with God in Christ. He is the goal. The whole point is God himself. God is our end, our good, and our way…

—Kyle Strobel (*When God Seems Distant*)