

## WHAT IS FAITH?

### *Surrender & Trusting in God*

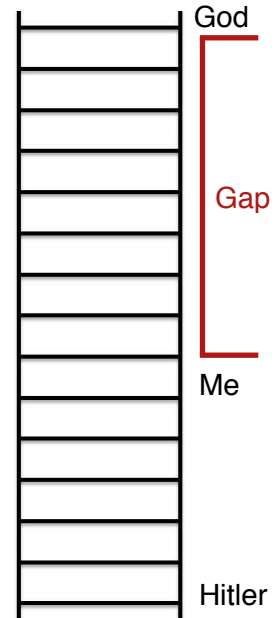
Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth that 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

## Trusting in God

### *Morality Ladder*

If we were to envision the scale of morality and righteousness as escalating rungs on a ladder, we would put God at the very top—because he is perfectly righteous—and really evil people like Adolf Hitler at the bottom. The rest of humanity is somewhere in-between. Wherever you perceive yourself to be on this ladder, there is a gap between what is expected of you and how you live. What is your plan to make up the gap?

One plan is to try to climb the ladder by stopping our sin and actively seeking to do good works. However, this plan will not ever work at closing the gap because no amount of 'good works' can make up for my previous moral failings, and I know that I will continue to sin moving forward. Faith is abandoning this plan for attaining righteousness (I can do it myself) and trusting in the plan that God has for giving me the righteousness I cannot attain on my own (God has done it for me). See 2 Cor. 5:21.



### *Do/Done*

Whereas all the 'religions' of the world can be spelled with two simple letters: "DO." Christianity recognizes that the key to closing the gap left by sin is that God has already "DONE" everything through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. All we need to do is turn in faith and trust in God's plan.

## Surrender

Luke 17:5-10 shows us clearly that faith means surrender.

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ...7 "Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? 8 Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

We surrender our own will to serve God's will. True saving faith is not merely intellectual assent to the idea of God, rather it is wholehearted trusting in Christ and deciding to follow Him.