

What is Faith? I

Understanding what faith is according to the Bible requires a look at various words and a multitude of verses in order that one not drift away from God's truth. The scriptures show us people with an absence of faith, all the way to the great faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is safe to say that Jesus took faith [i.e. the life we are to live before God] to its outer limits, maximizing every potential of the Father's plan: Hbr 12:2. Everything there is to know about God comes to us through Jesus Christ: Mat 11:27. One's attitude towards Jesus Christ is the sole criteria whereby God weighs and determines whether we will have eternal life with Him: Jn 3:16; 1Jn 1:2-3. Only by means of Faith can a person receive the gift of salvation: Rom 1:16. Because faith is the deciding factor whether we're to have a life with God, there could be no greater word for us to understand.

It is impossible to corrupt faith, and God can't accept anything but faith. Faith acknowledges the works of God and nothing more. Faith does not take consideration on self in any way, only the virtues of Jesus Christ: Eph 2:8-9. Jesus Christ deserves the credit for the provision of eternal life: 1Tim 1:14. Jesus Christ is the only person in human History to be completely acceptable to God from birth to death: 1P 1:18; Hbr 7:26.

The bible displays different types of faith: when putting our faith and trust in Jesus Christ we are entered into union with the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit: Rom 5:1-2. Faith directed completely towards Jesus Christ is the Key to receiving this free gift: Acts 4:10-12. Experiences prove to be a completely unreliable criterion to determine whether a person is saved or not. Nothing we can do will save us only what we think. The only question we can ask ourselves is: What do I think about Jesus Christ? This is the most critical question every human being will eventually have to face. A person's thinking can be: "I know who Jesus is and what is said about Him but I am not sure how well I know Him; maybe I don't know Him at all." The thinking can be embarrassment towards Jesus. The thinking can be "I don't even want to think or talk about it." The thinking can be antagonistic or hostile towards Jesus. Also the thinking can be "I don't know what to think about Jesus but I would like to know more."

By the disobedience of Adam sin was brought into the world. By the obedience of Jesus Christ salvation was made available to everybody that concedes to the truth: Rom 5:12-21. Jesus is the way, truth, life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. There is none other name under heaven given among men by which we can be saved. To put confidence in Jesus is faith; to put confidence in anything or anybody other than Jesus is not faith and will not be acceptable to God. Putting our faith in Jesus Christ and nothing more is the only way to salvation: Acts 4:12; 1Tim 2:5.

If a person is resisting and saying in his heart, "This is too easy" or, "I put my faith in these other persons and myself." These kinds of thoughts are [the very essence of the Lie]. And God, in the interest of truth, always rejects them. These thoughts ultimately manifesting themselves by way of open displays often receive praise from men but never from God: Jer 17:5. The earliest picture we see of a person trying to present their best is Cain and his presentation of vegetables to the Lord: Gen 4:3. Only what we do in the filling of the Spirit is acceptable: Rom 12:11; 2Cor 13:14; 1P 3:4; when a person is doing God's will it is God's will giving a return to God. The Lord rejected the human good gesture presented by Cain: Gen 4:5: God knew in justice that something greater was necessary. Man does not have any value that can impress: Rom 4:2,

and only God can value the necessary to redeem those who are dead and lost. Abel presented the appropriate sacrifice from the flock and received approval: This animal sacrifice was indicative of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. God in His mercy encouraged Cain to do what is right: Gen 4:6-7, but nevertheless his rejection of God became evident with the murder of Abel: vs. 8.

Throughout Old Testament times the animal sacrifice losing its life for the people visually portrayed the way to salvation. John the Baptist called Jesus, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”: Jn 1:29. Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world: only this value would bring to satisfaction to the Father: 1P 1:18-20. Only the work that God has done is worthy of our confidence and adoration: Eph 3:11-12. Until we complete confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ we will remain in various levels of deception, willing to entertain many different celebrities: Jn 5:43-44. This fleshly attitude in the believer is repugnant to God; yet God is merciful and waits that we might give Him the attention and Glory that’s deserved of us: Rom 11:30-36; 1Tim 1:12-17; 1P 2:9-10.

The most important thing to learn about faith is: faith is from God: Acts 17:31; Rom 3:20-31; Eph 2:8. The only reason we can have faith is because God has revealed Himself to us. Faith is passed to us from God so we can pass it on to others who will reject it or accept it: Rom 1:5; 4:1-5. Faith is a positive attitude towards God; recognition of His perfect virtue and power to save the spiritual dead: Eph 2:1-8. We can have a positive attitude towards God yet in most part be ignorant of His word and plan. The only way our faith can grow is through God’s word mingles with faith: 1Tim 1:5, 13. At some point God requires that we consistently be among other believers in order for our faith to grow even more: 1Tim 2:22; 2Cor 10:15; 2Tes 1:3.

The Holy Scriptures indicates that believers “stand” by their faith Rom 11:20. This verse reflects that those who become conceited are at risk of being cut away from the cultivated olive tree they were grafted into; so remaining humble is of great importance!: 1Pet 5:5-7; Mat 26:41. Believers are also commanded to stand firm in their faith: 1Cor 16:13; this verse indicates that it is not only possible but probable that we will be weak in faith at some time. Many believers are caught in sin and need the encouragement of another Christian in order to be released: Hbr 3:13; Jam 5:20. Many portions of the New Testament provide encourage for us to grow so that we do not decline spiritually: Hbr 3:12-19; 4:1-16; Hbr 12.

Beyond the day of salvation some believers will progress and others will not. God expects a great deal of some believers, and of others little is expected; some believers have greater opportunities right from the start and therefore more will be expected of them. Many believers have made insufficient progress beyond the point of being united with Christ: 1Cor 3:1-3. All scripture is for the purpose of taking baby believers to the point of adulthood i.e. [a strong faith] where they are able to love and appreciate God and be an effective witness for Him: Eph 4:12-16. To some capacity we are all called to actively serve God while being among other Believers: 1P 4:10-11. Rom 12:6-8. There are exceptions to this: many times God has believers in an interim state and at the same time He is preparing others beforehand then He is ready to call the others into action: the point explained in a different way is that sometimes believers are in a cold state or are inactive participants in God’s plan. The active participants in God’s plan are said to be Hot: indicative they are functioning on a level that is pleasing to God. Being lukewarm means we know the right things to do and/or the things we should not be doing i.e. sin and are not taking appropriate steps to correct our breach of fellowship with God: Jam 4:17; Rev 3:14-20. When there is recognition of failure, confession of sin is in order; then a willingness to put

the word of God first on the priority list: 1Jn 1:9; 1P 2:1-2. Faith can even be in a dormant state: not being pressed into action by God because others need to be pressed into action first. This can be described as the believer who has yet to hear the calling of God. There is a preparation stage in God's plan. Once we have been called then we are liable to take action or face the consequences if we don't. Once believers start growing in grace they are expected by God to continue to grow and not stop. It will be impossible for some believers to grow after they are saved because of preexisting conditions; and yet they will suffer because of things beyond their control.

These principles can be seen in the parable of the soils: Lk 8:5-15. Naturally God expects more from the good soil just in the same way He expects to receive fruit from the olive tree that is in His vineyard: Lk 13:6-9. The point is that believers are in various stages of activity or inactivity for God and the scriptures indicate various levels of faith from weak to strong and various levels in between. Many verses in the Bible with the word faith in them are reflecting on the faith a person has when responding to the Holy Spirit's call just a split second before the person is saved by the Power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The other verses are reflective of every stage of growth beyond the moment of eternal salvation. The word of God with the Holy Spirit provides many different types of admonishment for believers. Some of the admonishment is indicative that we are not going to make it in God's plan so we change our mind and align ourselves with God's plan. God lets us know when we are drifting off course and provides us with disciplinary action so we will not go to Hell: 1Cor 11:31-32. If it were not for God's loving guidance we would all be left in an incomplete state and therefore unacceptable to be with Him in heaven. Christians can reside in many different level of mediocrity and suffer God's discipline because of this. It is best to learn what is pleasing to Him: Eph 5:10.

When Jesus was in the flesh walking among men, many were drawn to Him because they had heard that He could heal them; this was faith working in them; wanting to be healed by Him was in fact expressing faith in the truth: Jesus Christ is the truth. The Holy Spirit within Jesus healed everyone who was coming to Him wanting to be healed: Mt 12:15; Lk 6:17-18. Without these miracles it would have been hard for people to believe in Him. Jesus gained quite a reputation when He changed the water into wine: Jn 2:1-12. All those who were sickly were coming to Jesus because they wanted to be healed. Jesus many times said, "Your faith has made you well," The Holy Spirit can see the positive volition [i.e. faith] the people are having towards what God is doing. God sees the faith we have towards Jesus and therefore saves us, just in the same way people wanted to be healed by Him and thus He healed them.

The Holy Spirit shows all persons in the world they are sinners [sick] and are dead [no life with God] even though they are alive: Jn 16:8-13. This is the truth: we are all sick and dead because of sin: Eph 2:1: Would we accept the truth and go to God for healing? Or will we reject this truth and reject God seeking this gift by our own means? One rejection of God is never enough for a person to be sent to Hell. There is a rock in the path of human beings: people either acknowledge the rock or they are going to stumble over it: 1P 2:6-8. Jesus is in the path facing every human being. We need to acknowledge the rock or we will continue to fall over it and take offense. This rock will either save us or crush us. Some will prefer the Lies instead of the Truth, just like Satan. At this point God in His love begins to harden the unbeliever preparing them to live in hell forever: 2Thes 2:10-12. It seems the only truth that will be known in Hell is that Jesus is Lord: Phil 2:10-11; the suffering will be a continual reminder of His sovereignty. Saving faith is the beginning of a life with God inevitably leading to an eternal relationship with Him: Jn 3:16. 1Jn 5:10-11. Election guarantees there will be a life in God for all eternity: Acts 13:48. All those

who refuse the idea of faith alone for salvation therefore seeking to establish their own righteousness are excluded from the blessings of truth; their eyes of their heart being darkened by God: Rom 1:18-32.

If the initiative has been taken to look at all the verses that have been listed up to this point, then there is probably a genuine interest in the truth of God's Word. From this point forward we will look at the logical progression of salvation starting with faith in Christ immediately resulting in the regenerating ministry of God the Holy Spirit: Tit 3:5-7, and the indwelling of God the Spirit, God the Father and God the Son: Jn 14:16-17, 23. Beyond saving faith some believers will have an opportunity to grow spiritually: Jn 14:26. 1Cor 2:10-16; this study will reflect on the scriptures exhorting believers to press forward in their relationship with God and some resulting benefits; also verses that are reflective of the failure to advance in the spiritual life and some consequences created by these failures: 2P 3:18. 1Cor 3:14-15. 2Cor 13:14. Gal 6:7-8. Hbr 6:4-12. The last portion in this part that is important is laying aside the flesh and going to be with the Lord: 2P 1:14; 2Tim 4:6-8. This progression can be described with three words: Positional [i.e. the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit: Eph 1:13; 2Co 1:22;], Experiential: from our introduction into the plan of God through faith to death or the Rapture: Rom 5:2; 2Cor 13:5; Phil 1:21; 1Cor 15:51-52, and Ultimate Sanctification describes the believers from death –or the rapture- to the Judgment seat of Christ: the final evaluation of all believers and the distribution of the greater blessings for eternity, thereafter entering into the eternal state: 2Cor 5:1-10; which is the leaving behind the body of corruption, our Spirit being taken into the presence of God, never to sin again: 1Cor 15:53-57.

Confusion can exist as a result of not understanding these distinctions. In regards to Positional Sanctification first we will be looking at several verses that reflect the principle of [Retroactive Positional Truth.] This means the second the person believes, the Holy Spirit comes into the person: Eph 1:13-14; 2Cor 1:21-22.

Matthew 9:20-22:

“And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years came behind Him and touched the fringe of His coat, for she was saying in herself, ‘If I only touch His coat I will be saved for twelve years came behind Him and touched the fringe of His coat, for she was saying in herself, ‘If I only touch His coat I will be saved.’ But Jesus turning and seeing her, said, ‘Daughter, take courage; your faith has saved you.’ At that hour the woman was saved”.

If you read this verse in your own bible chances are that the first thing that you will notice is that the words are different in your bible. Actually very few translations put the words in, therefore providing a misleading idea; also very few people teaching the bible are willing to disclose these discrepancies. The following is Luke 8:43-48, and is the same account of the woman with the hemorrhage, but providing more details concerning what was said:

“And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years and could not be healed by anyone came up behind Him and touched the edge of His coat and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. And Jesus said, ‘Who was the one who touched me?’ And while they were all denying it, Peter said, ‘Master, the crowd is pressing in on You.’ But Jesus said, ‘Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me.’ When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice. She came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and she had been immediately healed. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”

First of all we see that the woman had faith in Jesus Christ such to the extent that she was made well; also we see that Jesus actually used the word “saved” instead of the very common Greek word “*therapeuo*” for healing. We see the faith she had was effectual to save and heal her instantaneously. Jesus also called her “daughter”, indicative of her relationship with Him being a/the Son of God.

Many times we see this same pattern, indicative of just how close salvation is to all of us: salvation is in our heart and our lips, when we share the message of salvation is to all of us: salvation is in our heart and on our lips; when we share the message of salvation to the elect of God it is indicative we have a life with God, the free gift that comes through faith and the absence of works. People are saved because of God’s power; we are saved because He rescues us out of the darkness we are/were in. We are saved because we know we can’t save ourselves. The persons thinking they can provide something to offer God will be rejected just as Cain was. This applies also to those seeking the gift through penance, as was the case of Esau: Hbr 12:17: feeling sorry for our sins is never the issue for salvation. Everybody at some point has expressed sorrow regarding sin. Realizing our corrupted state is a completely different concept: realizing our state of alienation from God because of God’s judicial verdict regarding our sins is a point of reference: Rom 3:9-23. Realizing that we are/were dead in our transgressions and sin is the closest any human being will ever get to the truth aside from coming to know the righteousness of God through Spiritual Growth; this only taking place after trusting in Jesus Christ.

Willingness to acknowledge these things is in accord with the truth. Beyond this point a person simply desires salvation and is saved; and beyond this point a confession is inevitable because of the presence of God in them. The scriptures now instruct us to grow in reference to salvation so that we might obtain a good confession: 1Tim 6:12; Hbr 10:22-23. The major point is: we as unbelievers are sitting in a slave market and God has His hand stretched out to us; and that hand is Jesus Christ: 1Jn 4:14; we simply reach out to that hand through faith and He takes hold of us resulting in salvation: Hbr 7:25. There is no greater truth in the world than putting our trust in Jesus Christ because He is the king of the universe, having authority over all things, there being nothing able to escape His rule: Rev 5:12-13. Jesus Christ is the door!: Jn 10:1-9

Even if we have already responded to these truths they should still remain lovely to us: Psa 119:97-112. If we have trusted Jesus for salvation then growing in His grace is the only to please God; this life of growing in the Holy Spirit can also be described by the phrase Experiential Salvation. This is deliverance from worldliness; Christians that are willing to walk with God, as did Enoch: Gen 5:21-24; those willing to set aside a normal life for the extraordinary life that God designed for those that truly love Him: 1Thes 1:1-10; willing to follow Him despite the inevitable sufferings: 1P 2:21; 4:1; Lk 6:22-35; Jn 14:5,21

Experiential salvation is using the opportunities that God has predestined for each of His children: Eph 1:17-19; 3:16-21; if we capitalize on these opportunities we experience God’s deliverance from this present age; whereas if we are falling short of His expectations, we will suffer shame because of our unwillingness to submit to his will. The only alternative to His plan for our lives is a worldly existence that is not able to glorify Him: Col 3:23-25; Gal 6:7-8. The only other principle that resides is that some believers will be caught in various levels of ignorance by no fault of their own and will receive only minor discipline Lk 12:47-48.

NOTES:

“EACH ACCORDING TO HIS FAITH” Rom 12:3

“ GIFTS... IF PROPHECY, ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION OF HIS FAITH” Rom 12:6

“BY YOUR FAITH YOU STAND” Rom 11:20

What Is Faith? II

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by faith men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so what is seen was not made out of things which are visible: Heb 11:1-3. Faith is the greatest thing in the universe available to man from God. Faith enabled the believers of old to carry out the will of God. God’s revelation of Himself to the saints of old and us makes our faith in Him possible. If there were no creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in them neither would there be Faith. Faith is only possible because God has had an affect on those to whom He chooses. So it is simple to see that faith is from God and not a human virtue. God has never excluded anyone from this gift but instead reveals Himself to those willing to receive Him in truth. The last two words in the previous sentence (“in truth”) could be of no greater importance. We see from the scriptures that there will be those who are rejected by God; yet these same were under the impression they were to have a life with someone named Lord: Matt 7:21-23. Instead these people were willing to embrace the lies of Satan; these lies being presented in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is obvious by them pointing out their works that that’s what they were counting on to get into heaven. These people see the true Gospel which is faith alone in Christ as being the lie; so you see there’s no tragedy in all of this. The dividing line of all humanity is those who wanted the truth and those who wanted the lie.

In Heb 11:4 we see one of the many truths that either set a division or unite us with God forever. Cain was acquainted with the Lord just as the rest of his family but unlike his family he rejected the greatest truth in the universe: the redemption solution through faith in the Lord. Cain had a countenance towards the Lord; Cain was seeking the Lord’s approval as was his brother Abel. Cain was aware of the issue of sin in the world yet sought reconciliation with God through the fruits of his own labor. Cain presented his best to God and God could not accept it because of the truth. Abel on the other hand presented God’s best: the sacrificial animal representing the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. The Lord lovingly directed Cain to do the right thing so his countenance would be lifted, but instead, rejecting God, he killed his brother. In grace God took away Cain’s ability to reap from the soil; He did this so Cain had the opportunity to realize the strength he had to cultivate was in fact from God. All the details of God’s dealings with Cain and Abel are found in Genesis 4:1-15.

We see in another case, Esau, Jacobs's brother, seeking the free gift of salvation with tears, and God rejecting this also: Heb 12:16-17. You might ask yourself: "Why would God reject Esau? Obviously he was feeling sorry for his sins." The answer to this question is of great importance and also easy to explain: anybody can be sorry about something they have done, but that sorrow in itself is dead. When we recognize our sin and look to God for truth, then and only then will God point out his Son Jesus Christ; only recognizing the precious value of Jesus Christ or the Lord of the Old Testament will open the door to salvation and eternal life with God. Jesus Christ is the door!! Jhn 10:7-9. When we set values on the things we are doing we are in danger of losing sight of God's Truth just like Cain and his futile attempt to please God. There is only one person in the universe having a value of redemption acceptable to God the Father; that being Jesus Christ His Son: Mat 17:5; 2 Pet 1:17; "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved: Acts 4:12. Stepping back just a few verses we see that it was the Apostle Peter who bore witness to this fact; him being filled with the Holy Spirit. The scripture indicates that this truth is not subject to change, yet Jesus said there would be those coming in His name trying to present an alternate savior: Mat 24:24; just as the Apostle Paul stated there would be those presenting differing variations of the Gospel: Gal 1:6-9; these extra Biblical teachings or traditions are to be rejected or we are faced with God's rejection. If we are entertaining one of these Gospel variations then the light that is in us is in fact darkness. We will be calling the lie the truth and the truth the lie because we have adopted teaching related to deception.

If you have a Bible you should be reading it. Reviewing the epistles of Paul will be of critical importance in order to establish exactly what the Gospel is, and also, what it is not. The Bible indicates there are spirit beings presenting themselves as a messenger of light offering a counterfeit gospel. The scripture indicates the closer we get to our Lord's return the more these false signs will be revealed: Col 2:18-19. Now let's look at what Paul has to say about the major truths of the gospel and also concerning those who would seek to distort it. First of all this is what Paul has to say about himself in Romans 1:1-3: "Paul a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an Apostle, set apart for the Gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh." We know from Paul's writings that God had given him the deep truths of the Gospel; God knowing that Satan would seek to distort the facts. Paul had personal encounters with God where he received these revelations: 2Cr 12:1-12; the Apostle Peter even acknowledges the authority of Paul's writings and also referring to those seeking to distort them: 2 Pet 3:15-18. We would not know much about the Gospel if it were not for the Pauline epistles. Aside from these facts the other major point made by Paul is that Jesus was born of a descendant of King David. This is of course would be Mary, yet Paul indicates this is according to the flesh and more than sixteen other times in the New Testament Jesus is referred to as the Son of David. The scripture indicates that Messiah would rule from the throne of David. Establishing the fact that the Scriptures never seek to glorify none other than the person of our Lord Jesus... Christ could be of no greater importance and the scripture indicates that God will not give His glory to another: Isa 42:8. Since we are talking about faith it is important to establish the fact that the scripture limits our expression of faith to the Lord now and in the future. Revelations says that: "Only the Lord is Holy": Rev 15:4. We are only to worship the Lord: Ps 2:11-12; Mt 4:10. The Lord says there is to be no images in any form, nor adoration or worship towards them: Ex 20:4; Deut 4:1-25; Acts 17:27-31. Worship is always to the Lord: 1 Ch 16:29; Psa 22:27, 29:2, 45:11, 96:9; Jer 7:2; Lk 4:8. We see in Romans 1:17 that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: "But the righteous man shall live by faith." Here we see the principle of the propagation of God's plan; Paul preaching the Gospel is the expression of faith the Holy

Spirit enables him to have, enabling the response of faith in those hearing the message created by the Holy Spirit; whereas Paul had already received the benefits of saving faith; delivering the Gospel to others is reaping the benefits of experiential salvation.

Experiential salvation can be described as the post salvation Spiritual life, or simply God's will for our life after the day of salvation. Satan seeks to distract the believer from carrying out his life with God: Eph 6:11. Much of what God is teaching us through the Bible is information necessary to take a stand against enemy tactics. One of Satan's most formidable tactics is a peace accord that always represents various levels of compromise when compared to sound understanding of scripture. The scripture says: "Peace, peace but there is no peace: Jer 8:11." The point being is that Satan's objectives are moving ahead under the guise of peace and unity and believers can be under the impression all is fine when in fact the harvest is pending. Oh yes the scripture says to be at peace with all men but not for the sake of compromising our responsibilities to God. While God's Elect remain in the field, and not being harvested, are we going to be at peace with our Lord of the harvest: Lk 10:2? It's simple to see that the answers to this would be NO. If we have not been blinded by Satan then it is easy to see that the fields are white for harvest and as always the workmen are few. So let us entreat the Lord regarding the harvest that men would enter into it, therefore, we also, entering in the joy: Jhn 4:36. Even if we have delayed in taking heed to our Lord's instructions it is better to be late than not go at all: Mat 21:28-32.

The Bible displays eight teachings about faith, These are: (1) The definition of faith, This is only found in one verse in the bible: Heb 1:1 (2) Faith is God's system for His elect, the following verses are reflective of the system i.e. faith. For example in Hebrews 12:2 we see the Jesus Christ is the author and perfecter of faith: faith here is indicative of the system necessary in us in order to follow Jesus; the very system He invented and tested, Jesus proving it to be perfect. This system functions because of the confidence i.e. faith God can give us: Jesus is our forerunner and all systems are working perfectly: Heb 6:20, so let's follow Him: Mat 16:24-26, going by His perfect example: Heb 12:2; Rom 12:2. 1P 2:21-23, 4:11-11. Here are more verses reflective of God's system: Act 6:7, 14:22; 1Cr 16:13. We see in Romans 3:28 that the Church's system of faith functions independently of the Mosaic Law: Gal 3:12. To embrace the idea of works for salvation nullifies saving faith and we are obligated to keep the whole law or face the wrath of God: Rom 4:13-15. It is important to note that a great portion of the Law is an extensive system of GOOD DEEDS being required of Israel, and in fact Israel was (never) able to fulfill that obligation to God: Jer 11:10, 22:9, 31:32; Acts 15:10. Jesus Christ is the only person in human history that kept the Mosaic Law perfectly, qualifying Him to intercede for the transgressors: Gal 3:10-14; Jam 2:8-13. (3) Faith being our (absolute confidence) in God. The following verses with the word faith in them are representative of our confidence in God; you can put the word confidence in the place of the word faith and realize the meaning God has intended: 2Cr 8:7; Gal 2:20, 3:22. The objective is a great confidence i.e. faith in the Lord, which is seen to develop from learning God's Word: Phil 1:25. (4) God's invitation to the elect yet still lost: These verses represent the initiative of God seeking man who is lost and our response to God with faith i.e. confidence in His Judgment and Justice providing reconciliation for our sins: Gen 3:8-24; in Gen 3:15 we see the Scripture that makes first mention of the Christ. Here are more verses reflective of God's search and save system: Jn 3:16; Mt 4:19-20, 9:9, 10:5-6; Lk 15:3-7, 19:9-10; Jn 6:29. (5) The elect's Faith response to God i.e. the Word; this facilitating the believer's (entrance) into God's plan being sealed from the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit: Jn 1:12-13, 3:16-18, 36, 5:24; Rom 4:4-5,16; 2 Cr 1:20-22; Gal 3:14; Eph 1:13-14, 2:8-9, 4:30; 2Tim 1:9; Tit 3:4-7. Now we will look at verses that display the retro activeness of God

responding to our Faith i.e. our confidence in God. Just as God immediately healed the body of those having faith in Jesus so also God saves us from our sins the moment we trust in Jesus Christ for Forgiveness of sins: Mt 9:22, 29; Mk 5:34, 10:52; Lk 7:50, 8:48; now we will look at verses showing our faith results in God immediately giving us His Righteousness: Rom 3:21-22, 4:5-13, 9:30; Phil 3:9 (6) Faith given from God facilitating our (progress) in God's plan; here are some verses: 2Co10:15; Phil 1:25; Col 2:6-7; 1Thes 3:1-10; 2 Pet 3:18 (7) Verses reflecting faith ranging from a little faith, to great faith, to faith that has undergone various levels of decline and or advancement: Mat 6:30, 8:10, 26, 14:31; 15:28, 16:8, 17:20; Mk 4:40; Lk 7:9, 8:25, 12:28, 17:5-6; Acts 6:5, 11:24; Rom 12:6; Col 2:5; 2 Thes 1:3-4; 1Tim 1:19; Tit 1:13, 2:2 (8) Verses from the Word depicting: The believer's faith from God encouraging others in their life with Him: Mk 2:5; Lk 7:9; Acts 14:22; Rom 1:12-17 1Thes 2:11-12, 3:2; Heb 10:25.

So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. 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 end of the world.

ROMANS 10:17-18

The Harvest Is White!!