



Faith - Saving Faith

God speaking of his chosen people says, “(Matt 15:8) This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their **heart is far** from me.”

Let's look at faith, at what it is and how it lives.

2 Corinthians 13:5, 6 "Examine yourselves, whether you be of faith; prove (test) your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates. But I trust that you shall know that we are not reprobates." Also read all of Hebrews 11.

Faith is defined by many to be different things, but God says there is ".¹..one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all ..." How can it be then, that we hear people say there is more than one faith that attains to heaven; when God says there is only one? Such talk is, obviously, not from God's word, for God doesn't lie.

Faith (true faith) is ² "The gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." "Faith³ is a shield against the fiery "Darts of the devil." We⁴ are saved through Christ, by faith. We are made righteous by faith. Faith is not ashamed. Not ⁵all men have faith. By faith many were healed in our Lord's days on earth. By ⁶faith we know that God created heaven and earth. By faith we know there is a heaven and a hell. By faith heaven is our home.

Throughout the Bible we see examples of faith in those who have lived before us. How by faith ⁷Abel obtained a witness that he was righteous. How by faith Enoch did not die. And by Faith ⁸Noah believed the word of God and, out of the millions, he and his house were the only "faithful" on earth, at

¹ Ephesians 4:5; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-21

² Ephesians 2:3, 9; Romans 4:16; Acts 17:31(the Greek reads, " ... has given assurance to all faithful men.")

³ Eph. 6:16; Psalms 33:20, 59:11, 84:9-12

⁴ Acts 10:43, 26:18; Romans 1 :16, 3:28+, 4:1-5:21, 8:24, 10:8-11; Galatians 2:16

⁵ Romans 10:16, 11:8; 1 Corinthians 8:7, 15:34; 2 Thessalonians 3:2; Matthew 19:11-13

⁶ Genesis 1:1 and following; John 1:3; Hebrews 11:3

⁷ Genesis 4:1; Hebrews 11:4

⁸ Genesis 6:1-7:5; Hebrews 11:7

the time of the flood. In Noah's day, the millions were given over to the joys of this life and a fake faith. You can hear the people ridiculing Noah for being so foolish as to build an ark, and for preaching during the 120 years of building to the people, his relatives and neighbors, saying, "Repent...follow God's word...listen to the truth, for the truth will make you free ... " What would their reply be? "Look at that fool, building such a large boat ...and on dry land too... how does he think that thing will float?... flood? ..and as for free, look at our free life styles, look at the pleasures we have here...why do you talk of greater pleasures than these?...eternal pleasures haw!...we believe in God and heaven...but relax...give in a little ... lets eat drink and be merry..." Oh the tears Noah Shed, seeing his blood brothers laugh at him! Read your ⁹Scriptures and see that this not only happened, but is happening still. Look at all the lives of the apostles and prophets shown to us and see how men of today count what is written as so many fairy tales. Faith believes what is said, without question. Don't you see that faith is against reason; reason looks at and trusts in what it can touch and see and handle. "But faith¹⁰ is the substance of (OR firm confidence in) things hoped for, the evidence of (OR conviction regarding) things not seen." "And ¹¹without faith it is impossible to please God." "For man¹² cannot come to God except first he believe that he is God." "And God is a rewarder¹³ of those who diligently seek God." So walk by faith and not by sight.

Look in another place where Christ says of faith, "¹⁴Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of God." Paul, the apostle, calls Timothy, "A ¹⁵true child in faith" (γνησιω τεκνω εν πιστει). The possessive personal pronoun "my" is not in the Greek, and it is τεκνω = child, not υιοσ = son. The same holds true in Paul's address to Titus. This reveals even more of what faith is. Be as men in God's knowledge, but you can't be a man if you haven't been a child first. You always remain a child in faith. The apostle Paul says, "We know in part and we speak in part". The same is true for us. No ¹⁶one will know all of God's wisdom until that day of perfection, until heaven. But the spirit of faith says, "Lord,¹⁷ I believe your word, your word is truth". Use the example of a little child, who will believe all things told it, by it's father, never doubting. The same is our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

⁹ Matt. 24:37+; Luke 21 :12-19; John 15:18-21,16:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 3:19,20; 2 Peter 2:5

¹⁰ Hebrews 11:1

¹¹ Hebrews 11:6; Psalms 101 :3, 109:7, 139:21,22; Romans 8:4-11

¹² Hebrews 11 :6; John 6:65

¹³ Matt. 7:7-11, 21:22; Mark 11 :24; Luke 11 :9, 18:1; John 14:13, 15:7-17, 16:23; Hebrews 11 :6; James 1:5-7, 4:3; 1 John 3:22-24, 5:14

¹⁴ Matt.18:3; Mark 10:14; John 1:12,13, 3:3+; 2 Corinthians 5:1-1; 1 Peter 1:23

¹⁵ 1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1 :4; 1 Corinthians 14:20; 1 Peter 2:2

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 8:2, 13:9,10

¹⁷ Romans 1:16+; Romans 10:11

Faith¹⁸ demands truth from those who speak of things religious. And faith can look at God's word and clearly tell if a man, claiming to be a preacher of God, is showing all of God's word. Each¹⁹ one of us has the responsibility to look in our scriptures and find out if our pastors are faithful or not. There will be no one let into heaven on a plea of ignorance and no pastor or any other person is going to suffer hell's damnation for you, if they knowingly or not lead you astray. Do you think the devil would have half a chance to seduce anyone, if he were to walk around with a sign on his neck saying, "I am the devil"? So it is just a tragedy to hear people trust their eternal life on a man who is so nice and well liked, and not turn completely to God's word.

Here is where we stop and show that all those words that are harsh sounding to our flesh, and that are the fire and brimstone of our God, are by faith turned into words of love. These words are the sign around the neck of Satan and all those who preach just enough of God's word to fool those that are too lazy to look in their Bibles. For our heavenly Father clearly shows in his word, that narrow path that leads to heaven. And he clearly shows the workings²⁰ of the devil; that one who, "as a roaring Lion, walks about, seeking whom he may eat". And shows us this devil who seduces people through the use of false preachers, and establishes himself as an angel of light. "By their fruits you will know them."

True faith is indeed the most complete confidence. Look at the examples of the martyrs who were so confident that they could suffer even death, to be able to spend forever and ever in heaven. Faith has not changed, even as God's word will never change. And look again at the confidence of faith, how²¹ Abraham moved to a place he didn't even know, and accepted God's words; "Take²² no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." How he was sure of God's promises and was willing to offer up his son, whom God said would be his heir. Read the words of Hebrews 11 and see how faith is so much like the eager faith of a child who believes, without question, what is told it by its father. These believers (as all believers must) gave up all that they had for the one treasure no one could take away from them, namely salvation and heaven. By their faith their treasure was in heaven. "Lay not up treasure where moth and rust do corrupt and thieves steal. But lay up treasure in heaven where neither rust corrupts nor thieves steal." "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

¹⁸ Romans 1:18, 8:5; 1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁹ 1 John 4:1; Jeremiah 28:8,9; Micah 7:6; Matt. 10:21; Romans 12:2; Eph. 5:8-11; Philippians 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 3:10

²⁰ Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:12-19; James 4:4-8; John 8:42-47; 2 Corinthians 4:3-5; Ephesians 6:11-16; Philippians 3:18,19; 1 John 3:6-10, 4:4-21

²¹ Romans 4:1-5,16; Galatians 3:6; Hebrews 11:8+; James 2:21

²² Psalms 37:5, 55:22; Matt. 6:25,34,6:19-21, 19:21; Luke 12:11,33,34,18:22; Philippians 4:6,7; 1 Peter 1 :3,4

Look at Mark 10:23-27. "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answered again and said unto them, children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure saying among themselves, who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them says, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

We see here that the disciples were "astonished out of (or beyond) measure", why? because God used the word in Greek for riches χρῆμα (which means; whatever is for use, whatever one uses, a thing, matter, affair, event, business, money). And does not use the other Greek word for riches πλοῦτος (which means; wealth. or abundance of external possessions). Looking at the Greek background in these verses we see that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for those who trust in the very things of everyday contact to enter heaven.

God says in Luke 14:33; "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be my disciple." (disciple means nothing more than a follower of Christ here, it never refers to an office, but a pupil or student, as all believers are) The Greek word for forsake, also means; to separate one's self, to bid farewell to. "Meaning that you say goodbye to everything, family, wealth, honor, advantage, and hold onto salvation and Jesus Christ above all else. That if it comes to be that you are forced to choose between family or any possession, and Christ, faith chooses Christ. If not, he will not receive the crown of heaven. "With God all things are possible", through the faith that God gives.

"He ²³that loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." And in Luke 14:26, Christ uses the word "hate" to express our form of love toward our relatives, when it is compared to the love toward God by faith, of true believers. Don't you see how impossible this is to our reason, but by faith in the ALL powerful, Almighty God, it is possible, simple childlike faith.

Know for sure that the Bible is God's word. Believe all of it and you will know that you have faith, that one and only true faith. "I am²⁴ the way the truth and the life", says our savior. "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "If the son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." Yes you will be free, free from sin, free from eternal death in hell, and you will have confidence in your heart, and to say as the apostle Paul, "I am ²⁵determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified." And, "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things

²³ Matt. 10:37, 19:29; Rev. 12:11;

²⁴ John 14:6; John 8:31,36; Romans 6:14,8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:16,17

²⁵ Romans 1 :16, 8:18,32; 1 Corinthians 2:2

present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." And through faith your eyes will be opened that you will be able to see the fruits of the false prophets, as pointed out by our Lord. For God says regarding his word, "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book." Does God mince words here? Is there any gray area? Read Galatians 1:6-12, and ²⁶other passages, God says, "Even if it be an angel from heaven who preaches any other Gospel, let him be damned (accursed)." Read John 1:1 and following. Christ and the word of God are one and the same, if you throw out part of God's word you are throwing out Christ. Without Christ there is no salvation. Faith accepts ALL of God's word without questionings.

Know this also that God's love is far greater than we can imagine. How can we as men equate our love with God's? For Jesus Christ came into the world and died on the cross, as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. And to those that believe on him, he says, you still²⁷ have the flesh, but the sins of the flesh and your guilt by birth and of your flesh, have been put away from you as far as east is from west; and by my mercy I give you freely, eternal life, and take care of all of your basic needs. And by Christ's righteousness we are made sons of God and all things that are written in the word of God become for us, the words of our shepherd. "My sheep²⁸ hear my voice and I know them and they follow me."

Know also that the last days of earth²⁹ are here. For we hear of wars and rumors of wars; and we see men in their wickedness, murdering millions children for the sake of pleasure (legally by man, not God), when we see God talking of children even before conception. We hear also of more and more "natural" upheavals (earthquakes, floods, etc.); all these are signs of the end. "Watch, for that day comes as the twinkling of an eye, and of that day knows no man."

Remember, "that all ³⁰men have sinned and come short of the glory of God •••" "There is none that does good no not one." "No man comes unto the Father but by me." "Where³¹ is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of work? No: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law." "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: Yes, let Gad be true, but every man a liar •••"

²⁶ John 12:25,48; Luke 10:15,16; Revelation 2:1-3:22, 22:19

²⁷ John 12:25,48; Luke 10:15,16; Revelation 2:1-3:22, 22:19

²⁸ John 10:1-5,25-30

²⁹ Matt. 24:6-34+; Mark 13:5-37; Luke 17:22-36; 1 Thess. 4:15-18; 2 Tim. 3:1-9,13, 4:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3+; 1 John 2:18+

³⁰ Gen 6:5, 8:21; Job 14:4, 15:14; Psalms 51:5; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 1:21,3:23,7:15-25; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Peter 3:21

³¹ Romans 3:3, 3:27,28

My prayer for you is that God give you the strength to open your heart and let the light of salvation fill it with joy. This is the peace that God gives men, that they may be reconciled to God by the death of our savior, only Believe. And those that believe will all receive the same gift of ³²eternal life; it does not matter if the believer is black or white, male or female, slave or free, the gift is the same. Open your eyes and see that the word of God is indeed truth, and pray with an earnest heart that God shows you His wisdom.

Know that ³³faith and doubt can not live in the same heart, and be honest with yourself, for God knows all hearts. Pray and seek God's kingdom; for God says, "Seek ³⁴and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you, ask and it shall be given..."

"And I trust you will know that we are not reprobate."

Notes:

People have made unbending, staunch faith seem old-fashioned and something of the past. Call it what you want. God says it is the only way to heaven!!! The footnotes are from: The Greek used is the Textus Receptus. The bible used is the King James Version. *

* The Textus Receptus (Received Text) is by all evidence, closest to the original letters of the apostles. This has been handed down from generation to generation and has been used by all Christians until the 1800's. At which period, several groups of unbelieving men have brought forth a corrupt and small amount of manuscripts (the ratio of Transcripts agreeing with the Textus Receptus to the corrupt manuscripts is: 999 with the Textus Receptus to 5 with the corrupt). These five corrupt ones, through many manmade theories, have been Established, and are tile basis of all printed English Versions today except the King James Version.

There are many books written on the subject. One of the best is titled; True or False edited by; David O. Fuller J. D. Published by; Grand Rapids International Publications, a Division of Kregel, Inc.

³² John 10:28, 11 :25; Romans 10:12-15; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1 :12; 1 Peter 5:4; Rev. 2:10

³³ Romans 10:17, 14:23; Titus 1 : 15

³⁴ Matt. 7:7-11, 21:22; Mark 11 :24; Luke 11 :9, 18:1; John 14:13, 15:7-17, 16:23; Hebrews 11 :6; James 1:5-7, 4:3; 1 John 3:22-24, 5:14

