

Introduction

Jesus has done much for us as seen in the last study. Now we need to apply faith to have those benefits. So now we need to take a look at what it means to have faith

What is Saving Faith ?

Saving faith has the following aspects :
committing your life to God

Psalms 37:5-6

[5]Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

[6]He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.

Believing in Jesus

John 3:16

[16]"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal

Believing in your heart

Romans 10:9-10

[9]that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

[10]for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Inviting Jesus to take His rightful place in your life

Revelation 3:20-22

[20]Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

[21]He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

[22]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

.

.

According to the Bible , faith is much more than knowledge , hope or an experience . Faith is a deep , inner assurance , without having to see or rationalise it .
' Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see . '
(Hebrews 11 : 1)

Born Again by Faith

Living faith always produces something !

(Mark 11:22-24

[22]And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.

[23]Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

[24]Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

What are the effects in our lives when we return to God and receive Jesus , by faith , as Saviour and Lord ?

John 3:3,16

[3]Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

[16]"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore , if anyone is in Christ , he is a new creation : the old has gone , the new has come

The Bible makes it clear that we are more than just body and soul . The body is our physical part . Our soul is made up of our mind , our will and our emotions .

Watchman Nee said :

" Our emotions express how we feel , our mind tells us what we think and our will communicates what we want . "

Colin Urquhart wrote :

Until a man is born of the Spirit , his soul will run his life . He is used to assessing situations with his mind , and reaching his own conclusions . He pays considerable attention to his emotions , and often allows them to rule him . He makes his own decisions , based upon the reasoning of his mind , or as a result of the emotional desires he has , or by a combination of the two . '

To be born again means receiving new life in that particular part of us which died as a result of the Fall . Our relationship with God becomes alive and new and we are born into God's spiritual family . Many people think that repentance and being born again are the same thing. Let us just stop and look at this for a minute .

Repentance is our responsibility , but the new birth is a work of God which we receive through faith .

John 3:3-7

[3]Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

[4]Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

[5]Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

[6]That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

[7]Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

Repentance alone will not renew our lives , but when we have become alive through the Holy Spirit , we will begin to live as born again people . We will discover what it really means to be alive in body , soul and spirit

Galatians 5 : 16-25 ; Romans 8 : 9-14 ; John 3 : 3-8) .

Jesus says that we cannot see the Kingdom of God unless we are born again . Seeing the Kingdom of God means experiencing the reality of God , knowing His love and forgiveness , and living in the power of God , because He lives in us by His Holy Spirit .

Faith is God's Gift

Ephesians 2:8-9

[8]For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

[9]not as a result of works, so that no one may

When we respond and listen to God , our lives are open to receiving this great gift of faith

Romans 10:17

[17]So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

This enables us to put our trust in God , give Jesus Christ authority over our lives and receive a new eternal life through the Holy Spirit .

Faith is Something Personal

Many so - called believers do not know the reality of this new life . Many have been brought up by believing parents and go to church , yet there is still something missing . How is this possible ? One reason is that people may differ in their understanding of faith . There are different categories of faith . For example :

Historical faith

You know that God exists , that Jesus died on the cross , that He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven . You were brought up in these things and you hear it preached from the pulpit every week . You pray and you fear God , but something is missing . Just like Nicodemus in John 3 , you do not have the assurance that you have been born again and have received eternal life but you hope so .

Personal faith

Now you not only know that God exists - something new has been birthed in your life because you have come to know God personally . God is no longer far away , but He is your loving Father . Jesus Christ is your personal Lord and Saviour . You have received new life through the power of the Holy Spirit . Eternal life has become certain for you . Hope no longer means may be , but rather being sure

(Hebrews 11:1

[1]Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Dynamic faith

You not only know that you are saved , but also that God looks after you , that His promises are sure and that nothing is impossible with Him . You have learned to trust God in every aspect of daily life.

Matthew 6 : 25-34) . The Kingdom of God becomes your purpose in life and by faith you receive everything you need to serve it .

Obstacles to Receiving Faith

Faith is a gift from God , however there are some . obstacles :

Pride (John 5:44)

John 5:43-47

[43]I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

[44]How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

[45]Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.

[46]For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

[47]But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My

Securities

Matthew 7:24-27

[24]"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

[25]And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

[26]Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

[27]The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-and great was

We need The Assurance of Faith

We must rely on the facts rather than our feelings. These facts are:

What the Word of God tells us

(John 5:24; Hebrews 13:5; John 6:37; Romans 8:38-9

Titus 1:2; John 10:28, 29)

The witness of the Holy Spirit in us

(Romans 8:14-16; 1 John 3:24)

PART 5.8

Prayer of Surrender

Pray this prayer (or one like it) if you want to receive a personal faith , or if you want to yield your life to Christ more fully . This prayer is only an example ; it is more important that your heart is sincere . Genuine repentance and willingness to turn your back on sin is essential . If you are aware of particular sins , mention them specifically and confess them .

Lord God , I am aware that I have sinned in thought , word and deed . There are so many good things I haven't done . And so many sinful things I have done . I am sorry for my sins , and I ask your forgiveness . I want to turn away from all the things in my life that I know are wrong . You gave Your life for me on the cross . I now give my life back to You . And I ask You to come into my life . Please come as my Saviour to cleanse me from my sins by Your blood . Please come as my Lord to take control of my life . Please come as my Friend to be near me . I want to serve and follow You in obedience for the rest of my life , by the power of Your Spirit . Therefore I ask You to fill me with the fullness of Your Holy Spirit . Thank You Father , for loving me and hearing me . In Jesus ' Name . Amen . "

If you have prayed this prayer sincerely and have asked Jesus Christ to come into your life , then He has come ! By His Holy Spirit He now lives in your heart . You may not feel any difference just yet , but do not rely on your feelings . Rely on His promises . The faith of a Christian rests on the fact that God is faithful and that His Word is true .

To strengthen your faith read the following Scriptures :

LIST OF SCRIPTURES YOU CAN READ

Revelation 3:20

Hebrews 13 : 5 , 8 , 9

John 1:12 , 13 ; 6:37

John 10:28

Romans 10:13

Luke 11:13

Summary

Our salvation is by faith , which is a gift from God . We respond and listen to God and open OUR HEARTS to receive this gift of faith .

We are born again through faith in Christ . . If you want to be saved and become a disciple of Jesus you must confess your sinfulness . You must repent and ask God's forgiveness for your sins ; then you must yield your life to Jesus and make Him your Saviour and Lord . 1. Our spirit is made alive by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1 : 13-14) .

When we are in Christ we have available to us a new , abundant life

John 10:10

[10]The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

2 Corinthians 5:17

[17]Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have

Our salvation , our new birth , is the beginning of a completely new life in the power of the Holy Spirit .