

## Finding Faith

When our son was about 13, he told us he'd seen a bear on his way to the bus stop that morning. We were surprised, but also a bit skeptical. It's not that we didn't believe he'd seen something big. But in the dim light of pre-dawn, he might have been mistaken about what it was. Our son was absolutely convinced, however, and that carried a lot of weight with us. So we took precautions, kept our eyes open, and when we saw the bear for ourselves a few days later, we believed!

*...the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Many... believed (Acts 17:10-12)*

I love the way this passage gives us a very down-to-earth picture of how a community of people came to faith in Christ. The Bereans were excited to hear about Jesus but perhaps at least a little skeptical too, as people often are. How did they react? First, here's what they didn't do. They didn't do nothing. They didn't depend solely on an emotional reaction or their own understanding. They didn't ignore or reject the message because of their doubts/questions either. They are commended for taking wise and reasonable action, for going straight to the established truth of scripture. When this confirmed to them that Jesus Christ was indeed the promised Messiah, they believed.

If you lack the saving faith that Jesus Christ is Lord, what can you do? How can this all-important faith be acquired? Ultimately, faith is a gift from God, and we can't believe without His help. But we must be willing to be helped. We must be willing to take wise and reasonable action. Follow the Bereans' example; find out what scripture says about Jesus. Get help if you need it. Then *stop doubting and believe* (John 20:27). If there was a bear sighting reported in your neighborhood, you'd want to know if it were true, wouldn't you? Knowing the truth about Jesus is infinitely more important... and more exciting!

*I prayed for faith, and thought that someday faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, "Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." I had closed my Bible, and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since. – D.L. Moody*

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