

“1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:1-5).

Thank God for blood running warm in our veins...

Remember our goal as children of God: To learn to love like Jesus loves.

Faith In God

Introduction

Loved one, in today's world, there are many different ideas about how a person becomes a Christian.

Some people believe one becomes a Christian by being born into a Christian home. Others think one becomes a Christian as a baby when a priest sprinkles or pours water on their head.

Others contend that babies should not be baptized at all—that only mature people can be born again of water and the Spirit.

Where can we find the answers to these various ideas?
How can we learn what God wants us to do?

We must go to the inspired word of God, the Bible because, "Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Doubt In The Modern World

We live in a world of doubt and skepticism. In our time, science and technology are almost worshiped. Some people refuse to believe in anything that cannot be examined in a laboratory.

But God can neither be seen, heard, touched, tasted, nor smelled. Therefore, some people say, "There is no God."

Twice the Bible calls a person who says, "There is no God" a fool (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).

Fools do not understand that spiritual things cannot be examined by the five physical senses. A scientist cannot weigh out a kilogram of love, measure inner peace, or study patience under a microscope. No matter how much money we have, we cannot buy a gram of joy.

Spiritual things can neither be proved nor disproved in a test tube. Nevertheless, spiritual things are as real as salt and pepper.

Today, when we believe in God enough to do what He says, He ignores our faults and accepts us as if we had never sinned.

In His Son, He treats us as if we are perfect.

What Is Faith?

Faith is believing that God is real.

"Without faith, no one can please God. Whoever comes to God must believe that God is real and that he rewards those who sincerely try to find him" (Hebrews 11:6).

"Faith is what makes real the things we hope for. It is proof of what we cannot see" (Hebrews 11:1).

Today, people who seek God are able to find Him. God has revealed Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

When we look at Jesus, we see what God is like. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us (Matthew 1:23).

In John chapter 1, the Holy Spirit says, “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:1, 14, 18).

God sent His Son into the world to defeat Satan and to conquer the forces of evil.

Therefore, in Christ God rewards His faithful Christian children with (a) victory over sin, (b) a life that is full and good, and (c) eternal life in heaven.

These rewards are given to those who seek God and find Him in Jesus Christ.

What Does Faith In God Mean Today?

1. Faith In God Means Believing That God Exists.

Unless there is a God, it is hard to explain the origin of the universe. It is easier to believe that the universe was created by an intelligent and powerful God than to believe it created itself.

The beauty and design in the world around us point to a designer. We can't see God, but we can see His handywork in the Heavens (Psalm 19:1).

His workmanship is also seen in the human race (Ephesians 2:10).

Abraham Lincoln, one of America's greatest presidents, believed in God. Someone asked him, "Mr. President: isn't it hard for you to believe in a God you can't see?" The president replied, "Yes. It's hard for me to believe in God. But it's harder not to believe."

2. Faith in God Means Trusting In God; that is, Taking Him At His Word.

Three times in Matthew chapter 6 Jesus told His followers not to worry because God is our heavenly Father, and He takes good care of His children. To illustrate this truth, Jesus pointed to the birds.

He said, "Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them. Don't you know you are worth much more than they are?" (Matthew 6:26).

3. Faith In God Means Believing That God Sent His Son To Rescue Us.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

All the plans and promises of God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. "God has made Jesus to be Lord and Christ," the Messiah (Acts 2:36).

Now, He is sitting on a throne at God's right side interceding for the saved (Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 7:25).

Peter said to us, "You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You can't see him now, but you believe in him" (1 Peter 1:8).

During His ministry Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, calmed stormy seas, and raised people from death.

The Gospel Good News that saves (Romans 1:16) are the facts that Jesus died on a cross for our sins, was buried in a tomb, and was raised from death on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

God proved that Jesus was His Son. He proved this through the testimonies of many witnesses, the miracles, wonders, and miraculous signs He did through Jesus (Acts 2:22), and by raising Jesus from death (Romans 1:4).

The apostles saw these things happen. Therefore, our faith in Jesus is based on the eye-witness testimony of good and honest men who risked their lives to tell us what they saw.

4. Faith In God Means Trusting In Jesus Enough To Confess Him As Lord And Savior.

Just believing that Jesus is God's Son is NOT enough. Many Jewish leaders believed that Jesus was from God, but they were afraid to tell anyone.

They "loved praise from people more than praise from God" (John 12:42-43), so they believed in Jesus secretly.

They were not willing to pay the price of faith. Their faith was too weak to do them any good.

5. Faith In God Means Trusting Jesus Enough To Submit To Him As Lord.

Jesus asked some of His followers, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' but you don't do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

We have no right to call Jesus "Lord" unless we trust Him enough to learn and do His will.

Our faith in God must be an obedient faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26). An obedient faith is the only faith that brings the reward of salvation.

6. Faith In God Means Trusting In Jesus As Man's Savior.

Our trust must never be in any man – not in Muhammad, Buddha, Joseph Smith Jr., the pope, Ellen G. White, Mary Baker Eddy, Charles Russell, or any other man or woman.

One great reason to trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior can be seen in the fact that only a sinless person could pay the death price for our sins.

"Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin for us, so that in Christ we could be made right with God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We can never be right with God as long as we are guilty of sin. Justice demands that our sins be punished; therefore, Jesus took our punishment for us.

Even though Jesus had never sinned, God put our sins upon Him and condemned the sins in the flesh (Romans 8:3).

Jesus died on the cross to save us from death, which is the wage or consequence of sin (Romans 6:23).

Many Showed Their Faith In Jesus Christ

In Matthew chapter 8, as Jesus was entering the town of Capernaum, a Roman army officer in charge of 100 men, came up to Him and said, "Lord, my servant is very sick. He is in such pain that he can't move his body."

Jesus said to the centurion, "I will go and heal him."

The officer answered, "Lord, I am not good enough for you to come into my house. You need only to give the order, and my servant will be healed.

I know this, because I understand authority. There are people who have authority over me, and I have soldiers under my authority. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell another soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and my servant obeys me."

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. He said to those who were with Him, "I tell you, this man has more faith than anyone I have found, even in Israel" (Matthew 8:5-10).

Then, Jesus said to the officer, "Go home. Your servant will be healed the way you believed he would." Right then, his servant was healed (Matthew 8:13). The Roman officer's faith in Jesus was rewarded.

In another story found in Mark chapter 2, we learned about the faith of four men who brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus in Capernaum. When they could not get into the house where Jesus was teaching, they went up on top of the house. They tore a hole in the roof and lowered their paralyzed friend on his mat through the hole.

They believed that Jesus could heal their friend. They recognized that Jesus had the power and the heart of God.

When Jesus saw their faith He honored them and said to the paralyzed man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5). Then He said to him, "Stand up. Take your mat and go home" (Mark 2:11).

Immediately, the paralyzed man stood up, picked up his mat, and walked out of the room. Everyone was amazed and praised God.

They said, "This is the most amazing thing we have ever seen" (Mark 2:12). Jesus rewarded the faith of those believers, and He will reward you also for such faith.

Invitation

Friends, all men today are saved through the grace of God and their faith in God (Ephesians 2:8-10).

You can be saved today, but that salvation is found only in Christ (2 Timothy 2:10).

Salvation is a spiritual blessing, and all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

After HEARING and being taught the Gospel of Christ, you must BELIEVE it and REPENT of your sins; that is, you must change your mind about living in sin.

A PENITENT believer must willingly CONFESS his faith that Jesus is LORD, the Son of God. You must then obey God's command to be IMMERSED (baptized) in water for the remission of your sins. Your baptism puts you into Christ and into His death where His blood cleanses you of sin.

When you arise from the watery grave of baptism you become a new creature in Christ – a spiritual child of God. You are born-again, saved, and added to the Lord's kingdom, the church of Christ. Through your faith and obedience you are given the Holy Spirit as a down payment of your eternal life.

Then, as you faithfully walk in the light of God's word the blood of Christ will continue to wash your sins away as you repent and confess them (1 John 1:7-10).

Now That I Am a Christian, What Am I to Do?

1. Walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4).

2. Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow (1 Peter 2:1-2).

3. Seek the things that are above (Colossians 3:1-2).

4. Wear the name “Christian” responsibly (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).

5. Add the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-11).

F, V, K, T, P, G, BK, L

6. Attend and worship God faithfully whenever the saints meet (John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25).

7. Remember Jesus’ death, and give on the 1st day of the week as you have been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

8. Edify; that is, build up the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:12).

9. Tell others about the Savior (Acts 8:4).

10. Bear your cross as you follow Jesus (Luke 14:27). Never forsake the Lord (2 Timothy 4:10).

11. Continue steadfastly (Acts 2:42).

Conclusion

When Jesus comes again He will take you from earth to your eternal home in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:23-24).

There your faithful soul will receive a crown of life and praise and glorify God with all the saints and heavenly host forever and ever (Revelation 2:10).