

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FAITH

John 14:1 (KJV) – Jesus’ statement to his disciples

¹ Believe in God, believe also in me.

WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE?

John 1:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. 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.

THE MEANING FAITH

There are two aspects to the meaning of faith.

1. THE FIRST ASPECT IS THE CONVICTION OF THE TRUTH FOUNDED ON TESTIMONY

In order to exercise faith, one must know what to believe. There must be knowledge, and there must be the conviction that what one knows intellectually really is true.

Example of the disciples’ conviction of the truth founded on testimony

Acts 10:38-43 (KJV)

³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: ⁴⁰ Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; ⁴¹ Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. ⁴³ To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

2. THE SECOND ASPECT IS THAT FAITH MEANS TO “BELIEVE,” NOT JUST IN THE SENSE OF BELIEVING THAT THE FACTS ARE TRUE, BUT BELIEVING IN THE SENSE OF TRUSTING THAT TRUTH FOR ONE’S SALVATION.

John 3:32-33 (KJV)

³² what he(Jesus) hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

³³ He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

2 Corinthians 1:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

Believe in God the father and the Son for your salvation.

THE KINDS OF FAITH

The Bible speaks of five different kinds of faith.

1. SPECULATIVE OR DEAD FAITH

Speculative or dead faith, is believing the truth without appropriation of the truth. This is the case where a person has received just a little faith, but never really catches the full measure of faith.

James 2:17-19 (KJV)

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

In dead faith, there is historical and intellectual acceptance of the truth without any real moral or spiritual response. One has assented to the truth of the gospel, but has not trusted it for salvation.

2. TEMPORARY FAITH

In temporary faith, a person believes when he is confronted, but never really grows in the faith. It is just an emotional response, not out of trust, so there is never real regeneration. He is not born again, nor is there a conversion, a turning from sin to God.

1 John 2:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

3. SAVING FAITH

The third kind of faith is saving faith. This is the kind of faith that one really needs.

Saving faith is the kind of faith that secures eternal life.

John 17:2-3 (KJV)

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Saving faith is a positive conviction put in the heart by the Holy Spirit as to the truth of the gospel; it is the heart that relies on the promise of God that He will save us in Christ Jesus. This is real saving faith, that results in eternal life.

4. LIVING FAITH

Living faith is the faith by which one lives the spiritual life, the life as a believer.

Living faith is the evidence of saving faith, it shows that not only is one saved by grace through faith, but one must also live by grace through faith.

Acts 26:15-18 (KJV)

¹⁵ Jesus said to Saul (Paul) ...I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; ¹⁷ Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, ¹⁸ To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

5. MIRACULOUS FAITH

Miraculous faith is the conviction that a miracle will be done by God on one's behalf.

This may or may not accompany saving faith.

Having faith that God will work a miracle, by itself, does not guarantee anything, one may decide that he wants a miracle without checking with God first, and God may not choose to give him a miracle.

Miraculous faith means that when God has promised to do something miraculous, one firmly believes it to be true.

Matthew 8:5-8, 13(KJV)

⁵ *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,* ⁶ *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.* ⁷ *And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.*** ⁸ *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

¹³ *And Jesus said unto the centurion, **Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.*** *And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

Miraculous faith is not a faith in which one decides of his own accord which miracles God is going to do. Rather, God is the One who declares whether or not He will work a miracle, and when one believes it, that is miraculous faith.

Miraculous faith is not the way one can cause God to perform miracles; miraculous faith is that one believes God when He reveals that He will do something miraculous.