

Faith, from whence it hails

FA Introduction and outline to the book

1 **Thema** 10:1-10 (10:20-22)
 2 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from
 3 God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
 4 Who give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;
 5 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and
 6 Father,
 7 knowing, beloved ones, that you are chosen by God,
 8 And that our Gospel came to you, not only in word but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much affection, as you know what kind of
 9 work we did among you for his sake;
 10 For you became obedient to us of the Lord Jesus Christ, **despite the word** **with love** of the Holy
 11 Spirit,
 12 So that you were examples to all Macedonia and Achaia, **because** **of** **you** **from you** **the word of the Lord has sounded forth** **in every** **place**;
 13 And Achaia also is excited, **because** **of** **you** **your faith toward God has gone out**, so that we do not need to
 14 say anything.

1 Thessalonians 2:16 (NKJV)
 16 For you, brethren, became **imitators** of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Jews.

The most important things, are an emphasis on a very clear and concise knowledge of the Word of God, and on personal spiritual

2000-11-17 10:00:00 (JST) 10:00:00 (JST)

Chapter 2: 1 & 3: 12

Describes what happened in the past and summarizes the present tense spiritual life and testimony of the Theologians.

Orientation to
ethnobiology

Rational Faith: a brief look

Is Biblical faith a supernatural faith or a natural faith in a supernatural object?

Saving Faith? **Head-faith** or **heart-faith**?
 Is faith rational? Or is it irrational?

Romans 10:10 (NIV)
 10 For with the **heart**, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Throughout the centuries you have no emphasis on **evidence**, and the value of evidence, or confirmation with

So the issue is whether or not we're going to believe it.
That has to do with faith and whether we trust God and believe Him.

Man's tendency to add to faith:

theologians. Sunday school teachers, and a whole host of little teachers, they often teach that faith involves something more than simply belief, something more than assenting or agreeing to something as true.

They usually add things like: commitment, obedience, some sort of moral change, or turning from personal sin.

How do you know you have real saving faith, they ask?

Well, if because you've committed your life to Jesus or you've seen some sort of moral transformation or you have turned from personal sin. These are often added to a concept of faith. It's often faith plus. It's not faith alone.

So they're subtly imbedded in their definition of faith these other ideas, so that for them:

faith means commitment.

Faith means obedience,

or it means moral change.

Without those other elements, they say it's an inadequate faith or a non-saving faith.

Isaiah 54:1-3 (NIV2011)

5 The former account I make, O Theophilus, of all that I once began **both to do and teach**,
2 and the day in which the vision was taken up, after I through the Holy Spirit had given announcements to the apostles when I had finished,
3 to whom I have promised through all these years, suffering **by many infallible proofs being seen by them** during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

One of the more popular ways that faith is described is through this kind of distinction between a head faith and a heart faith.

You'll hear people say that you have to have a heart faith because a head faith is just intellectual.

They think a heart faith is what truly saves you.

Comprehension of Scripture is through the mind.

heart: human soul

The Bible almost never talks about the head as the location of thought.

It talks about the **heart** as the location of thought.

95% of the time it refers to

■ "The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked. Who can know it?"

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

18 For "who has known the **mind** of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the **mind** of Christ.

Luke 24:45 (NKJV)

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

The **heart** is indicated as a place of thinking:

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

5 **Then** the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his **heart** was only evil continually.

Deuteronomy 10:6 (NKJV)

6 Because that there be a wicked thought in your **heart**, saying, "The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand," and your eye be set against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the Lord against you, and it become sin among you.

Psalm 15:2 (NIV)
 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart,

Psalm 48:3 (NIV)
 3 My mouth shall speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart shall give understanding.
 Scripture distinguishes between: understanding something, and just knowing it or having heard it and generally agree.

We can't believe something we don't understand.
 That doesn't mean we understand it **comprehensively** but we have to understand what something means and what

comprehensively | ˌkəmˈprɪhensɪvli | *adverb*
in a way that includes or deals with all or nearly all
elements or aspects of something: these books
are precisely and comprehensively illustrated | a
comprehensively equipped vehicle.

33 Repeat therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your **heart** may be forgiven you.

Old Testament synonymous parallelism.

No emotion only intellectual activity

Two kinds of faith based on their objects

Every passage you read in the Bible is either addressing:

1. how to have eternal life, or
2. how to live on the basis of your possession of eternal life.

It's one of two things:

1. One is telling you how to get justified.
2. It is telling you how to live now that you are justified.

Every passage of scripture is addressing either getting saved or living the Christian or spiritual life after salvation.

1. One's object is the gospel
2. has to do with the promises, principles and mandates of Scripture.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the law of righteousness is revealed in the gospel.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed: **from faith to faith** as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Matthews 23:6 (KJV)

4 "Behind the priest, His soul is not upright in them, but **the just shall live by his faith**."

As we look at the concept of faith we say it's a mental activity triggered by vision. We make decisions as to what we're going to accept to be true.

It's based on understanding arguments and being convinced of the veracity of something. Therefore, faith is not emotion, it's intellectual.

It has to do with understanding and also built in terms of basic values and character.

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your

Believe is something that is addressed to the subject.

I AM verb, auxiliary, active, imperative, second person, singular

Any command in the imperative mood is addressed to the subject for you to make a decision to do something or not to do something.

So faith just in terms of the grammar indicates a mental response to a command.

Some people say that they're not believing in a proposition, they're believing in a person.

That sounds good but it's weak. None of us have had a direct encounter with Jesus. He doesn't appear to people.

Paul had a direct encounter with Jesus but the core issue of *his* faith could be expressed in terms of a proposition which is "Jesus is the Messiah who died on the cross for my sins."

Either you believe it's true or you don't believe it's true.

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

30 And though many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;
31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

WHAT DO we believe? We believe a statement Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins.

James 1:19 (NASB)
 "If the Lord will, we will live and do His will."
 "If the Lord will, we will live and do His will."
 "If the Lord will, we will live and do His will."

IT'S A FUNCTION OF HEDONISM AND BELIEVE WITH OUR HAND.

Copyright © 2010 Pearson Education, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is protected by copyright. Any unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this work without written permission from Pearson Education, Inc. is prohibited. All other rights reserved.