

Would you prefer to have eternal life when your physical body dies?

## Faith;

is believing something to be true

## Saving Faith

(John 1:12) (NASB)

14 (The verb **believe**) is also the **past tense** (lit. "and he who does not believe that Jesus shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.")

There are 2 basic uses of the verb **faith** in scripture

### 1. Defining Biblical faith, and its result:

- a. 1st. **Faith** is understanding something specific concerning the word of God, and then excepting it to be true and pertinent to you!

**Faith is simply the act of believing with your intellect**

#### Example:

1 Corinthians 1:6 (NASB)

8 Moreover brethren, **believe** in you, **the gospel** which I **preached** to you, which also **you** **received**, and in which you stand.

received: accepted by the Holy Spirit to become justified

verb, action, mental, intellectual

verb ... The verb **believe** is accepting the truth to present the action of events as a "reception" with the action when a person hears and it enters his/her mind, without regard to any power in the individual mind, the mental faculty, desires, good time, will, or even perhaps already being in agreement with what is being said.

Faith is rational. It is reasonable. It is logical. It is based in the content of actual reality as revealed by God to mankind.

It is based on the reality that if Jesus Christ's gift of righteousness is not received there is, and eternal price to pay.

Believers believe it

- b. 2nd. The use of the term **Faith** in Scripture many times describes the content of what we believe!

#### Example:

1 Corinthians 1:6 (NASB)

11 Which, eternal **faith** is **the faith** for which we stand.

The way the world describes **faith**, and many churches, is that it's a real strong belief in belief, based on nothing but feelings and mysticism.

Galatians 3:23 (NASB)

23 But they were hearing only, "He who formerly persecuted us," **now preaches** **the faith** which he once tried to destroy!"

There was something **profoundly intellectually unconvincing** to what Paul believed in his own estimation he would not be persecuted the church.

- c. **There is no merit in faith**, however there is merit in the object of our **faith** the Bible/ God's word, and that has **eternal value**:

The object of our faith is what inspires belief

So when we hear the apostle Paul's words as a proposition that this is true and it applies to us:

(John 3:16-18) (NASB)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him

should not **PERISH** but have **everlasting life**.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to **CONDemn** the world, but that the world **through Him** might be **saved**.

Saved from what? **eternal punishment is the lake of fire**

18 "He who **believes** in Him is not **CONDemned**; but he who does not **believe** is **CONDemned** already, why?... because he has not **believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

It's not just an empty message given **without faith**.

But this is actually God offering to us, to be justified on the basis of what Jesus Christ did on the cross!

So what specifically does it mean to **believe** in the name of the Son of God?

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB)

18 who (He will) leave our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness... by whose stripes you were healed.

Isaiah 53:10 (NASB)

10 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous servant shall justify many, **for He shall bear their iniquities**.

Righteous by act

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (NASB)

1 For I delivered you first of all that which I also **received**, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

2 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

3 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

4 After that He was seen by more than hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

5 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

6 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Hebrews 9:28 (NASB)

28 as Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for **salvation**.

It wasn't just the fact that Christ died for our sins,

but that He also rose from the dead according to credible testimony, and on the basis of His resurrection from the dead we also may have eternal life.

Jesus Christ died to pay a penalty of guilt for sin, for the entire human race, and rose from the dead to give eternal life to all who believe.

### 2.

Stage 1: deliverance from the presence of sin

In order to gain a place in heaven with eternal life, you have to do more than believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world.

(James 2:19) (NASB)

19 "You **believe** that there is one God. You do well; but the demons believe—and tremble!

I must believe that **Jesus Christ paid my penalty**. He did that for me, so that I can have **eternal life**;

## receive

- a. **Biblical faith** means that you trust in, that you rely on, and have confidence in; that you believe and except, the propositions of scripture to be true;

That is what it means to **receive** the gospel,

At the very moment you believe that Jesus Christ died and paid your penalty so that you could have eternal life; at that very instant, God **imparts** Christ's righteousness to your account.

Not because of anything you did do, He save us from eternal damnation, but **simply because you believed the gospel**.

Romans 5:17-19 (NASB)

17 For if by the **ONE** man's offense **death** reigned through the **ONE**, much more those who **receive**

**abundance of grace**

They **believed** that Jesus Christ personally paid the penalty to **their benefit**

and **the gift of righteousness**

will reign in life through the **ONE** (Jesus Christ)

18 Therefore, as through **ONE** man's offense **JUDGMENT** came to **ALL** men, resulting in **CONDemnation**

even so through **ONE** Man's righteous act **the free gift** came to **ALL MEN**, resulting in justification of life.

Everyone who will believe the gospel

19 For as by **ONE** man's disobedience **MANY** were made sinners,

even so

so also by **ONE** Man's obedience **MANY** will be made **righteous**.

Everyone who believes the gospel

You cannot be justified in the sight of God and gain eternal life by reading your bible every day, and going to church every week, or helping the elderly lady across the street!!

Romans 9:12 (NASB)

12 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His **mercy**

He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

4 whom He presented to us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that **having been justified by His grace**

we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The result of having been justified by the one man's righteous act is that we now have **eternal life**

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

## Saving Faith

It means that you trust in, that you rely on, and have confidence in; that you believe and except, the propositions of scripture to be true

Faith is not a gift from God, it's not something God gives you, **it's a volitional response of belief** all the hearing of the gospel!

It's **belief** that Jesus Christ paid **my penalty** for sin, on the cross, and in its place He freely gives to me eternal life; on the basis of **Christ's righteousness alone**