

## Saving Faith

No. 123

### Introduction.

I. The apostle John penned these words in the fifth chapter of his first epistle.

**1 JO 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. 5 And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**

A. In the last part of this reading John made one of the grandest statements found in holy scripture.

B. He exclaimed, **“and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.**

C. **Faith is the victory.** It is by faith that we accept the amazing, marvelous grace of God. It is by faith that we overcome the corruption and condemnation of the world. It is by faith that we find salvation in Christ.

II. It is the purpose of this lesson to define from the Bible this faith which saves. Not any kind of faith is saving faith.

A. **Some faith is not faith all.** It is merely human logic, human reasoning. It trusts in man’s wisdom and power rather than God’s wisdom and power.

B. Some faith is worthless, barren, dead, that is, it has absolutely no value with God.

I. **Believes The Promises Of God** - Saving faith believes the promises of God.

A. It stands on the precious and exceedingly great promises of the Omnipotent God. It knows these promises are sure, absolute.

B. **One time a man overheard 2 little girls who were counting their pennies together.** One said, “I have five cents.” The other said, “I have ten cents.” The first girl said, “No, you have just five cents, the same as I.” But the second girl quickly replied, “My papa said that when he came home tonight he would give me five cents, and so I have ten cents.”

1. The child’s faith gave her proof that what she did not have or see would be hers.

2. It would be **wonderful if we had this much faith in our heavenly Father.** I say wonderful! I should say, as Christians, we must have this unwavering measure of faith in God and His promises to be saved and to enjoy the abundant life.

C. The **Hebrew writer** wrote. (Heb. 11:1, 6).

## II. **Believes Jesus Was The Son Of God** - Saving faith believes Jesus was the Son of God.

A. John said. (1 Jn. 5:5).

1. John clearly states the one who believes Jesus is the Son of God overcomes the world.
2. **Belief in Christ, as the Divine Son of God, is absolutely essential for salvation.**
  - a. We must confess **as Peter did**. (Matt. 16:16).
  - b. We must confess **as John did**. (Jn. 20:28).
  - c. No one will ever heaven who denies the fact Jesus is God's Son, He is Deity. (Jn. 8:24).

B. The belief in Christ, as the Son of God, involves more than mental assent, just believing that Jesus was God's Son.

1. Even the **demons believe this fact**. ( Matt. 8:28-34).
2. We can clearly see here that the demons recognize the Sonship of Christ, but they will not be saved because they do not trust and obey Christ.
3. The devil is willing for a person to profess Christianity as long as he does not practice it, as long as he does not make Jesus, the Son of God, the Lord of his life.

## III. **Must Obey Christ** - Saving faith must obey Christ.

A. Jesus stressed over and over again that only an obedient faith saves. (Matt. 7:21-27; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 3:36; 14:15; 15:14).

B. The writers of the New Testament also emphasized that faith must express itself in action, obedience.

1. The book of Romans is a great epistle on faith. Near the end and at the end of the book Paul tells us the kind of faith that saves. See 1:5; 16:26.
2. Gal. 5:6; Heb. 5:9; Jas. 1:22; 2:14-17, 20, 24, 26; 4:17; 1 Jn. 2:3-5.

C. **Hebrews 11** has been called the faith chapter of the Bible because it relates many things which were accomplished by faith.

1. **Abel** (Heb. 11:4).
2. **Noah** (Heb. 11:7)
3. **Abraham** (Heb. 11:8)
4. **Abraham and Isaac** (Heb. 11:17).
5. **Israelites** (Heb. 11:30; Josh. 6:11).

D. All of these scriptures and examples from the Bible affirm saving faith obeys.

1. The Bible recognizes no faith that does not lead to obedience.
2. The Bible recognizes no faith that is not submissive to the will of God.
3. The Bible recognizes no faith that does not exclaim, "Thou art the Potter and I am the clay."

**Conclusion.**

I. We might summarize "saving faith" by saying that it believes the promises of God, believes Jesus was the Son of God, and obeys Christ.

A. This is not a faith we put on now and then and when its convenient.

B. This faith must continue throughout life. (Rev. 2:10).

II. **Beloved, Jesus said.** (Jn. 14:6).

A. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

B. **He is the One who has made redemption for us.**

1. He is the One who invites us to come and enjoy His sweet rest and peace.
2. We urge you to come and confess your faith in Him and then be baptized. (Gal. 3:26, 27).
3. Come now to Jesus as we sing.

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