

## What Is True Faith?

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Isaiah 53:1-12; John 1:1-18 / Romans 11:25-35

### I. Getting Faith Right Matters

**A. Christ came for those who received Him, not for all people; all people are lost in Adam, but not all are saved in Christ.** “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But ***as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God***, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but ***of God.***” (JOHN 1:11-13)

**B. Faith is a matter of eternal life and eternal death.** “But without faith *it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” (HEBREWS 11:6)

**C. OLD ISRAEL was cut off for lack of faith and NEW ISRAEL was grafted into the people of God by faith.** “And if ***some of the branches be broken*** off, and thou, being ***a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them***, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, ***The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.*** Well; ***because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith.*** Be not highminded, but fear:” (ROMANS 11:17-20)

**D. Pay close attention to what occurred; nothing much counts in life without true faith.** “For ***unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith*** in them that heard *it.*” (HEBREWS 4:2) “But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that ***believe to the saving of the soul.***” (HEBREWS 10:39)

### II. What Is Faith?

**A. The Book of Hebrews frames the answer.** “Now ***faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***” (HEBREWS 11:1)

**B. True faith is a certain knowledge which accepts as true all that God has revealed in His word.** “And ***this is life eternal, that they might know thee*** the only true God, ***and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***” (JOHN 17:3) “***Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth***, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” (JAMES 1:18)

C. Faith must have content and one item consistently mentioned in Scripture is belief in DIVINE CREATION. “*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*” (HEBREWS 11:3)

D. Faith which matters may be difficult to maintain and it must focus on Jesus Christ. “That *the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold* that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory *at the appearing of Jesus Christ.*” (1 PETER 1:7)

E. Faith also features vision, persuasion, and action. “These all died in *faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed* that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (HEBREWS 11:13)

F. Ultimately genuine faith is the gift of God. “For by *grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” (EPHESIANS 2:8-9)

### III. Do You Have True Faith?

A. True faith is the whole-hearted trust which the Holy Spirit creates in a believer as He did in Abraham. “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, *was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*” (ROMANS 4:13) “Therefore *it is of faith, that it might be by grace*; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but *to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*” (ROMANS 4:16)

B. True faith is evidence of the overwhelming influence of God the Father. “He saith unto them, But *whom say ye that I am?* And Simon Peter answered and said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for *flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*” (MATTHEW 16:15-17)

C. True faith is personal. “For *I am not ashamed of the gospel* of Christ: for *it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (ROMANS 1:16)

D. True faith is the appropriate product of preaching the Bible. “So then *faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” (ROMANS 10:17)

E. Paul summarizes the whole issue, placing TRUE FAITH at the center of the GOSPEL OF SOVEREIGN GRACE. “But now the *righteousness of God*

***without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law*** and the prophets; Even the ***righteousness*** of God ***which is by faith of Jesus Christ*** unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For ***all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ*** Jesus: Whom God hath set forth ***to be a propitiation through faith in his blood***, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ***To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.***" (ROMANS 3:21-26)