

us this is not true. Some believe that faith comes from prayer or from seeing miracles; we see that faith can only come by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Some think faith is believing something that has no evidence, but this too is untrue (Acts 17:11, John 5:39). Likewise, some think that faith is the opposite of reason (Isaiah 1:18). Again, this is not what the Bible says.

The Bible commands us to “*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified*” (2 Corinthians 13:5). We cannot be saved without faith. Only the Bible can tell us what faith is and whether we have it or not. Will you be saved by the faith found in the Bible? What are the works that the Bible says one must do to be saved by faith?

First, we must do the work of belief:
"This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
John 6:29

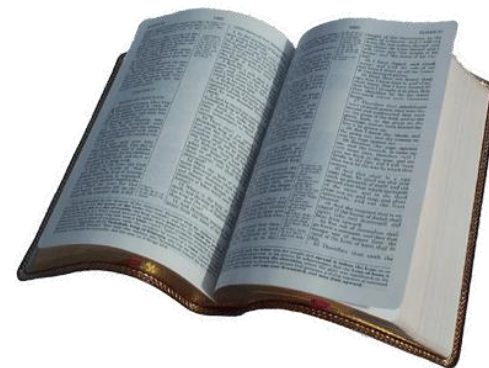
We must confess that belief:
"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
Romans 10:9

We must repent of our sins:
"...they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."
Acts 26:20b

Finally, when we submit to baptism, God performs the work of our salvation:
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,
Titus 3:5

Once we become a child of God we continue to “*work out our salvation with fear and trembling*” according to His Word (Philippians 2:12). This is what it means to walk by Faith.

Saved by Faith



What is Faith?

Faith is a word used many times both in a religious context and in non-religious conversation. For many, it means believing something regardless of the evidence or practicality. Many do not know that the Bible defines faith for us. In Hebrews 11:1 we are told that faith is *“the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*. Furthermore, a few verses later it is described as a characteristic that pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). The Greek word that is translated “faith” is rooted in the word that is translated “belief”.

Faith is a characteristic we need to be saved. Many times we are told that it is believing that leads to eternal life (John 3:36, Romans 1:17). We live by faith (Romans 1:17), we walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), and we are justified before God by faith (Romans 5:1). We are told that Abraham *“believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness”* in Galatians 3:6. In defining and describing faith, we would begin by saying that **faith is an absolute confidence in God.**

But faith is not JUST believing. According to the Bible, many people believe things about God that are untrue. Jesus warned that on the day of judgment many will say to Him that

they thought they were doing His will, but in fact they were not (Matthew 7:21-23). Why are so many wrong? Jesus said that many are in error because they believe traditions of men (Matthew 15:8-9). In the Old Testament we are told that many are wrong because they trust their own hearts (Proverbs 28:26). Faith can ONLY come through hearing the Word of God: *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* Romans 10:17.

How important is it that we believe the Truth about God? The result of believing something about God that is not by faith (i.e. from the Word of God) is a sin (Romans 14:23). We must HEAR what God has said BEFORE we believe it (Acts 18:8). Believing something that God has not said is not faith. Therefore, **faith is an absolute confidence in what God has said.**

But faith is not JUST believing what God has said. In James 2:19 we read this: *“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!”* Demons are not saved, yet they believe the things He has said. Faith is not just believing what God has said; faith is actually believing and ACTING on what it says. Consider the list of people of

faith in Hebrews 11. There we see that each one of them acted on what they heard from God, and this was why it was called faith. In James 1:22, James tells us *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* It is possible to hear and believe, but when we do not obey, we are deceiving ourselves. He goes on in James 2:24-26 to say this:

“You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James is telling us something very important. Just believing what God has said is not what the Bible describes as Faith. **Faith is an absolute confidence in what God has said, and then acting on it.**

Many people fail the test of faith. They believe things that are not true about faith or about God. For example, they believe that a person is saved by faith alone, yet the only time the term “faith alone” or “faith only” is found in Scripture is James 2:24 (*“a man is justified by works, and not by faith only”*) which tells