

Last week we looked at Grace alone. We saw that many people and I am one of the many, thought that they chose Christ. But we saw it was grace that enabled us to see. We would have thought the Gospel foolish and were not interested in it until Grace worked and illumined our hearts. **Grace opened my understanding. Grace melted my hard heart.** My salvation has everything to do with what the Lord has done for me. There are no works we do at all to earn salvation. **While I was still a sinner, Christ died for me.** *Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;* How we see the goodness of the Lord, How we are so thankful to Him for His gift of eternal life. He didn't wait for man to reform before He died and went to the cross. No, He died on the cross taking our punishment upon Himself. Our salvation was planned by the trinity long before we were ever born, Salvation planned before the foundation of the World. *Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:* It was His choice, He determined that we should be blameless and holy. **God's electing love.** This is the fountain from which the living waters flow. There would have been no stream of blessing to us at all if it had not been for this first choice of us by God, even as Jesus said to his disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." ...John 15:16. **Are you not glad He chose you?** Are you not glad He first loved you. ¹John 4:19. Without Christ we were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Again note redemption is in Jesus Christ. It is what He has done for us.

By Grace alone Through faith alone,

Faith is also a GRACE. Because Saving Faith is imparted. Saving Faith is a solid confidence and trust in the person of Jesus Christ. It is saving faith

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which enables us to believe, we are only enabled to believe through the work of the Holy Spirits in our heart. **This faith to believe normally comes by the preaching of the Word.** *Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

The word of God is therefore called the word of faith - it begets and nourishes faith. God gives faith, but it is by the word as the instrument. Hearing that produces faith is by the word of God. It is not hearing the enticing words of man's wisdom but hearing the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

By grace through Faith, we are saved. *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Through faith,* by which we lay hold on the grace offered us in the gospel. **Faith is not considered here as a work done by us,** but **as an instrument,** or means applying the grace and salvation given to us. **And that not of yourselves;** not for your own substance, nor by your own strength. **It is the gift of God;** that we are saved it is the gift of God, and therefore free and purely by grace.

Because of this gift of Faith, we perceive Gods Holy Word to be true. Because of this gift of Faith, we believe everything written, and consider it higher than any other writings. We believe and trust fully Gods word and yield completely to all of its teachings. The principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life” that is **The main act of saving faith** .

As scripture says, we are justified by Faith Romans 5:1. Gal 3:24 and we have been granted access by faith Romans 5:2. Christ dwells in our hearts by faith. Eph 3:17 Faith in Jesus Christ. Faith and believing are Very closely connected. Perhaps the most well-known Scripture we know shows this truth.

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish,** but have everlasting life.*

The Question here is do you BELIEVE? Or have you faith in God, Faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished upon the cross. So many answer this important question without much thought, Yes of course I believe.

Traditional Protestants, and Catholics, all recite, and read from a prayer book every Sunday that they believe. But most don't know what they have believed. Neither do they know in who they have believed for salvation, or why forgiveness of sins is granted. The question we must ask, can they explain what they mean when they say they believe? Can they give an account of their faith? A belief that is vague, just a token, just lip service, not from the heart, is utterly useless. It can neither satisfy, nor sanctify, nor save.

The scripture comes to mind *Mark 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

Saving Faith, is received first, then comes knowledge, first saving faith causes us to believe what Gods word has said, then comes understanding.

We see this in Hebrews 11:3—"Through faith we understand." The First thing we read in this faith chapter is that, Through Faith we are able to understand, faith is the root of perception. As we believe Gods word, Faith is granted to understand, knowledge of what we have believed is given.

Saving Faith enables us to receive the Word of God, not as mere fables of man But as the Word of God The truth which becomes engraved upon our hearts.

It opens our spiritual ears and we place faith in that which we have heard. But those who believe not can have no understanding of Divine things. Without saving Faith they are blinded, Deaf and in darkness.

God has only one plan for salvation. Apart from justification by faith in Jesus Christ, there remains only condemnation.

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Some may say what about the Scripture in James it speaks about having works Lets read it and see what it is saying? *James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

Though a man “say” he has faith, in boasting to others or flattering himself pretending he is good. Just Saying saves not. Men may say they have Faith, **men say** they believe, but our Lord is far too wise to be deceived. If they have come to faith there will be a result, something will be produced, a deed and action in the heart. God looks not at just what we say, *our leaves*, he moves the leaves aside and looks for fruit. As John Trapp points out. If he finds no fruit, he lays down His basket and takes out His axe. Luke 13:7.

Christianity is not a talking, but a walking with God. True saving faith always produces fruit. Faith that overcomes the world. It will purify the heart. **The best and the safest evidence that your faith in Christ is real is a holy life.** Those that live unto the Lord, normally die unto the Lord. **A holy life is real proof that we love the Lord in sincerity.** Its real proof that we are Children of God. Again its real proof that our Faith in Christ is real.

Faith is the only means by which we are saved. Saving faith is not some very hard work we must do, yet it is vital. **For example**, if I were to say to a starving man. If you eat this bread I’m offering you, you will gain strength, your hunger will go, and you will gain strength and become lively. His eating is no great or praiseworthy or admirable thing, yet it’s vital. What Gave Him strength was the food or bread he ate. His **eating was the means** by which He was saved. We should not think our faith saved or brought our deliverance, it’s the means by which deliverance or salvation comes.

I want to show a bible example of true saving Faith.

John 4:46-54 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there **was a certain nobleman**, whose son was sick at Capernaum. [47] **When he heard that Jesus was come** out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death. [48] Then said Jesus unto him,

Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe. [49] The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. [50] **Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken** unto him, and he went his way. [51] And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, **Thy son liveth.** [52] Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. [53] So the father knew that it **was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.** [54] This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

The nobleman had heard. **Faith cometh by hearing** and hearing the word of God. Rom. 10:17. It wasn't just an outward hearing. **He believed deeply and It was inscribed upon His heart.** He believed enough to act and walk approximately 25 miles to beseech Him to come and heal his son.

When He got there He heard the words from the Lips of the Master. “ Go thy way; thy son liveth”. **Here is real saving Faith demonstrated.** He went nothing asking, nothing doubting, nothing questioning. **He believed and with great confidence in what he had heard he went on his way.** He does not question the method Christ Chose to use. Remember He wanted Christ to go with Him but He completely trusts Christs way. No sign was given to him, he had no special feelings, he believed and he went on his way. He simply believed what the Lord said. **THAT IS HOW SALVATION COMES TO A SINNER.** They believe and act upon Gods Word Saving faith has convinced them it is true. Then again in verse 53. He believed once again. Him and his entire household received Eternal life.

Saving faith may vary in strength, weak or strong it doesn't matter, it is more than enough, With a weak faith and a fearful heart, many a sinner stands before the Lord. **It is not the strength of our faith, but the perfection of Christ's sacrifice that saves!** No matter how little the faith is that we may have it will never change the effectiveness of the Power in Christs blood to

cleanse away sin. Whether our faith is weak or strong the Promise remains the same, "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Saving Faith is a gift from God. The gift of spiritual eyes to see our lost and ruined condition. It is the Lord who shows men the holy wrath of God against their sin. The Lord who reveals the glory of a beaten, scourged, and crucified Christ. God gives men a revelation of the exalted, risen, Christ, ruling the universe and providing for, protecting, and caring for His redeemed. Without this revelation, no man will come to Christ in saving faith.

Have your eyes been opened to see the glorious person and work of the blessed Son of God? The young servant of Elisha could not see the mountains full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha until the Lord opened his eyes. Neither can the sinner see the glory of Christ until the Lord opens his blind eyes.

"Lord, I pray Thee, open their eyes, that they may see."