



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#106)
Results of faith (#4).

1

When FAITH is genuine, EVERYTHING changes!

Results Of FAITH:

- ✓ Other parts of the "process of salvation."
- ✓ (in general) Salvation and eternal life.

SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCES:

- ✓ Changes in our relationship to God.
- ✓ Changes in our relationship to sin.
- ✓ Increasing righteousness and obedience.
- ✓ Changes related to our spiritual condition/growth.
- ✓ **Changes in our interaction with people.**

TODAY

Scripture says a lot more about these issues. We have only looked at a few verses that show a direct connection to faith/trust/believing.

2

THE FOUNDATION FOR God-honoring interaction with people!

★ A "fighting" faith! ★

(But you have to be fighting the right battles!)

- ✓ THE "ARMOR OF FAITH" – PART OF OUR WEAPONS AGAINST THE DEVIL.
An ongoing trust in God for the power to overcome.

In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16 (CSB); more armor in vs. 13-17.

... let us be self-controlled and put on the armor of faith and love, and a helmet of the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:8b (CSB)

3

- ✓ THE "LIFE OF FAITH" – CHARACTERIZED AS A FIGHT.
Constantly trusting God for the ability to do what is right, *and then doing it!*

AS INDIVIDUALS!

Fight the good fight of the faith.

1 Timothy 6:12a (CSB)

AS A GROUP!

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then ... I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel...

Philippians 1:27 (NIV)

- ✓ THE "PURITY OF THE FAITH" – SOMETHING TO FIGHT FOR.
Distortion of the truth (= "the faith") MUST be opposed!

I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude 1:3b (NIV)

[In "later times," people will depart from "the faith" – 1 Tim. 4:1.]

4

★ A "communicating" faith! ★

- ✓ TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS, BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY WAY A PERSON CAN BE SAVED.
It needs accurately communicated!

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14 (NLT)

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Romans 10:17 (NLT)

There may be a variety of ways to communicate the Good News... but it does need communicated somehow!

5

- ✓ WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHO JESUS IS.
Doing this is part of what it means to be "saved."

If you declare that Jesus is Lord, and believe that God brought him back to life, you will be saved. By believing you receive God's approval, and by declaring your faith you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (GW)

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ...

2 Cor. 4:13 (NIV)

- ✓ NOT USING THE WORLD'S METHODS, TECHNIQUES, TRICKS.

And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.

1 Cor. 2:4-5 (NLT)

6

✓ **THE RESULT: PEOPLE ARE SAVED AND THEY GROW IN THE FAITH!**

(**OUR** job is to communicate the Good News;
GOD'S job is to do the saving!)

... more and more men and women **believed** in the Lord and were added to their number.

Acts 5:14 (NIV)

PEOPLE
SHARING
THE MESSAGE.

But many of those who had listened to the message **believed**, ...

Acts 4:4a (NET)

REMEMBER THAT
GOD DOES
THE SAVING.

Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Ac 2:47b (CSB)

SALVATION AND
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
BOTH OCCURRING.

So the churches were strengthened in the **faith** and grew daily in numbers.

Acts 15:5 (CSB)

7

INTERACTING WITH SAVED PEOPLE

★ **God's people taking care of each other!** ★

An expression of unity, based on truth, and in the power of the Spirit.

Now all the **believers** were together and held all things in common.

Acts 2:44 (CSB)

The group of those who **believed** were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but everything was held in common.

Acts 4:32 (NET)

It's an expression of God's love within us! (See 1 John 3:17.)

(Other Scripture passages show us how to do it, and when to not do it.)

8

★ **God's people accepting each other!** ★

Allowing for differences of background and custom.
(These are NOT sin issues. Sin is never to be accepted.)

✓ **THOSE WHO FOLLOWED JEWISH CUSTOMS; THOSE WHO DIDN'T.**

[The Jewish leaders] said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have **believed**, and all of them are zealous for the law.

Acts 21:20b (NIV)

"But regarding the Gentiles who have **believed**, we have written a letter, having decided that they should avoid meat that has been sacrificed to idols and blood and what has been strangled and sexual immorality."

Acts 21:25 (NET)

✓ **HOWEVER, ALL MUST RELY ON A LIVING FAITH IN GOD.**

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **faith** expressing itself through love.

Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

9

INTERACTING WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE

(The overlapping concepts of faith and faithfulness will both be necessary.)

★ **The world will oppose you.** ★

(It's inevitable. The world rejects Jesus' ways.
Followers of Jesus reject the world's ways.)

✓ **WE OUGHT TO FACE THIS FACT, AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER!**

They strengthened the disciples ... and encouraged [them] to remain **faithful**. Paul and Barnabas told them, "We must suffer a lot to enter the kingdom of God."

Acts 14:22 (GW)

10

✓ **THE WORLD MAY EVEN CLAIM THAT PERSECUTION IS NECESSARY!**

EXAMPLE: The religious leaders convinced themselves that killing Jesus was a matter of national security!
(In reality, rejecting Jesus led to their downfall.)

"If we let [Jesus] continue what he's doing, everyone will **believe** in him. Then the Romans will take away our position and our nation." ... "It is better for one man to die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed."

John 11:48, 50b (GW)

✓ **BE AWARE THAT SOME PERSECUTORS MAY EVENTUALLY REPENT AND BE SAVED! (EXAMPLE: PAUL.)**

"... in synagogue after synagogue I had those who **believed** in you [Jesus] imprisoned and beaten. And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I stood there giving approval..."

Acts 22:19b-20a (CSB)

11

★ **Trials will prove whether or not our faith is genuine.** ★

✓ **THE VALUE OF OUR FAITH IS PROVEN BY TRIALS.**

This [coming salvation] brings you great joy, although you may have to suffer for a short time in various trials.

Such trials show the proven character of your **faith**, which is much more valuable than gold—gold that is tested by fire, even though it is passing away—and will bring praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NET)

✓ **THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE GENUINE FAITH WILL LOSE EVERYTHING.**

But we are not those who draw back and are destroyed, but those who have **faith** and are saved.

Hebrews 10:39 (CSB)

12

★ **Trials require perseverance (endurance) and patience.** ★

These are related concepts. **PERSEVERANCE** focuses on all types of trials, whether or not people cause them. **PATIENCE** focuses on our response to what people do.

✓ **THE NEED FOR PATIENT ENDURANCE (= PERSEVERANCE).**
("End-times" passages, showing the "all times" necessary response.)

- When we consider the suffering that God's people may go through ...

This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.
Revelation 13:10b (NIV)
- When we consider the eternal judgment of those who reject God ...

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.
Revelation 14:12 (NIV)

13

✓ **PERSEVERANCE IS PRODUCED WHEN GENUINE FAITH IS TESTED.**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
James 1:2-4 (NIV)

✓ **THE NEED FOR BOTH FAITH AND PATIENCE.**
(Laziness is the opposite of these two concepts.)

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.
Hebrews 6:12 (NIV)

14

★ **The end result of persecution.** ★

✓ **EVEN NOW, OUR FAITHFULNESS IS CONSIDERED PRAISEWORTHY.**
(You don't have to wait until you're dead to know it's a good thing!)

I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.
Revelation 2:13 (NIV)

✓ **LIKE NOAH, OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS CONDEMNS THE WORLD.**
The righteousness of our response shows more vividly the wickedness of their response.

By faith [Noah] condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
Heb 11:7b (CSB)

15

✓ **ULTIMATELY, WE HAVE COMPLETE VICTORY OVER THE WORLD!**

It's because we trust God, not because we ourselves are naturally "better" than others. (Because we aren't.)

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.
1 John 5:3-5 (NIV)

All these things are the result of the changes that occur because of a living, fact-based faith.
Such a faith accepts Jesus for who he is, and expresses itself through love and obedience.

16

The CONCLUSION shows us our MISSION!

A living, fact-based FAITH is MORE THAN just "GETTING SAVED"!

It's not just "faith for salvation," but "faith for living"!
It's not just "have it once,"
or even "have it weekly," but "have it all the time"!

Our MISSION...

DON'T Pursue the wonderful consequences of this FAITH ...
... because they will escape your grasp.

Rather, pursue this wonderful FAITH ...
... and the consequences will come to you!

17

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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18