



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#91)
GOD defines "saving faith"

1

FAITH / TRUST / BELIEVING

GOD DEFINES "SAVING FAITH."

★ It's NOT for US to invent definitions. ★

~~TO ME, "FAITH" IS...~~

~~I LIKE TO DEFINE "FAITH" AS...~~

I HAVE SPOKEN!

2

THE WORLD'S DEFINITIONS ARE "A DIME A DOZEN" ... **AND STILL NOT WORTH IT!**

I'LL TAKE A DOZEN!

YOU JUST WASTED YOUR MONEY!

☞ The world's "faith" is like this!

What he **trusts** in is fragile; what he relies on is a spider's web. He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold.

Job 8:14-15 (NIV)

☞ The saving faith of the Bible is not like this!

3

THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS ...

☞ We can call them "faith-based" ... *but it's a blind faith.*

I BELIEVE MY RELIGION, BECAUSE I HAVE FAITH!

I BELIEVE IT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I DO!

IN CONTRAST:

☞ The saving faith of the Bible is "**fact**-based."

I BELIEVE THE BIBLE, BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN PROVEN TRUTHFUL AND TRUSTWORTHY!

4

☞ The world's religions are all based on a denial of FACTS.

I HAVE MY OWN SET OF FACTS!

ACTUALLY, YOU HAVE SUPPRESSED THE FACTS AND PURSUED A LIE.

... **people who suppress the truth** by their unrighteousness, because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. So people are without excuse. ...

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie...

Romans 1:18b-20, 25a (NET)

WHAT ABOUT GENUINE "SAVING FAITH"? →

5

SAVING FAITH INVOLVES TRUST IN WHAT IS TRUE.

☞ It is based on facts of the past.

- ✓ Facts about what Scripture says and what Jesus did.
- ✓ These things have been proven to be faithful and true.

[Jesus] appeared to the apostles from time to time and **proved** to them in many ways that he was actually alive.

Acts 1:3b (NLT)

[Paul] vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, **proving** from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 18:28 (NIV)

"[God] has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed [= Jesus]. He has given **proof** of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Acts 17:31 (NIV)

6

🔗 ② It looks ahead to **guaranteed promises** for the future.

- ✓ Promises that are **guaranteed** by the One who can be trusted – the One who is faithful and true.

... it is **impossible** for God to lie ...
Hebrews 6:18 (CSB)

God is **faithful** ...
1 Corinthians 1:9a (CSB)

[God] who promised is **faithful**.
Hebrews 10:23b (CSB)

... in the hope of eternal life that God, who **cannot lie**, promised before time began.
Titus 1:2 (CSB)

- ✓ The God who guarantees these **future** things is **not** capable of failing. So the promises are as certain as something that has already taken place.

★ These promises are the confident **hope** of God's people. ★

7

SAVING FAITH INVOLVES **ACTION**, NOT JUST WORDS.

- ✓ It takes root in our lives as we **live** by it.

... just as it is written: The righteous will **live** by **faith**.
Romans 1:17b (CSB)

HOW do I know if I have the Bible's "saving faith"?
It's not just because I "claim" to have it; the proof is seen in how I live.

🔗 ② If our "faith" involves merely "believing" things, then we are no better off than the demons.

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **demons believe** that--and shudder.
James 2:19 (NIV)

8

🔗 ② A "faith" that does **not** effect how we live is dead and useless.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?
... faith, if it does not have works, is **dead** by itself.
Senseless person! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is **useless**?
For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is **dead**.
James 2:14, 17b, 20, 26 (CSB); illustrations given in the context.

THE WORLD may pursue works and deeds, because they want to **attain** salvation.

GOD'S PEOPLE pursue works and deeds, because they **have** salvation, and their faith is alive.

9

SAVING FAITH IS PATIENT, NOT LAZY.

The end-goal of faith sometimes seems too far away. But we **will** receive it in due time.

- ✓ What we have been promised is guaranteed to come. It is ours to inherit... but not immediately.

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)

🔗 ② We must continue to **live** our faith – not quitting when times are difficult, or when the promises seem delayed.

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.
Hebrews 10:36 (NIV)

10

🔗 ② We have a **hope** that is guaranteed by God himself... but **only** for those who are willing to persevere.

- ✓ Life is not always easy. The temptation to give-up may be strong. But remember this: **Temporary faith will not work!**

They **believe** for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.
Luke 8:13b (NIV)

- ❖ The world's "faith daydreams" will fail.
- ❖ "Church-goers" with "temporary faith" will fail.
- ❖ Only those with an ongoing "living faith" will succeed.

But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.
Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)

11

★ THIS IS THE TYPE OF FAITH WE READ ABOUT IN HEBREWS 11. ★

Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

🔗 ② Hebrews 11:1 applies only to the type of faith that is:

- ✓ Based on the **trustworthy** foundation of Scripture and what Jesus Christ did.
- ✓ Focused on the guaranteed **promises** of God – our future "hope."
- ✓ Expressed in **life** – our values and conduct.
- ✓ **Persevering**, not giving-up when times are difficult, or when hope seems delayed.

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THE LIVING FAITH OF HEBREWS 11:1 IS THE ONLY TYPE OF FAITH THAT HAS "SUBSTANCE" TO IT.

❖ We can be sure of it, because it cannot fail!
 ⇨ Its foundation is the proven facts of Scripture.
 ⇨ Its hope is based on guaranteed promises that come from God.


WITH THIS LIVING FAITH, WE CAN BE CERTAIN ABOUT OUR FUTURE!

❖ When this faith is patiently lived-out in daily life – even in difficult times – it is evidence that God's promises apply to us.

A FIRM FOUNDATION!

[Circled words = from Heb. 11:1 passages on previous page.]

All other types of "faith" are like puffs of smoke.



👉 **Those with "Hebrews 11" faith can know they are saved!**

Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

✓ The very presence of this type of faith is enough to guarantee the outcome...

👉 SINCE: it is built on facts that cannot become false, and it focuses on promises that cannot fail to be fulfilled.

✓ If this faith proves to be present in us (confirmed by how we live)...

👉 THEN: its ongoing presence becomes proof that our future hope will be fulfilled. *Even when the future seems far away.*

THIS WEEK'S MISSION:
Learn from the book of Hebrews!
(Many claim to have faith; few have a faith that meets this standard.)

CONSIDER THE EXAMPLES OF THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE MENTIONED IN HEBREWS 11.

- Discover how genuine fact-based faith becomes expressed in the way people live – affecting their values, priorities and conduct.
- Observe how these people treasured God's guaranteed promises more than they cared about the things of this present world.
- See how they did these things and did not give-up – even when it required great perseverance to continue.

BUT DON'T FORGET THE ONGOING NATURE OF THIS FAITH!

✓ We need to develop the same attitude that they needed.

✓ Let us do everything we can to reinforce this faith in our lives... including: Encouraging each other!

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

Credits (1)

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