



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#93)  
Faith – "Why" we believe/trust

1

### The "faith" the WORLD offers.

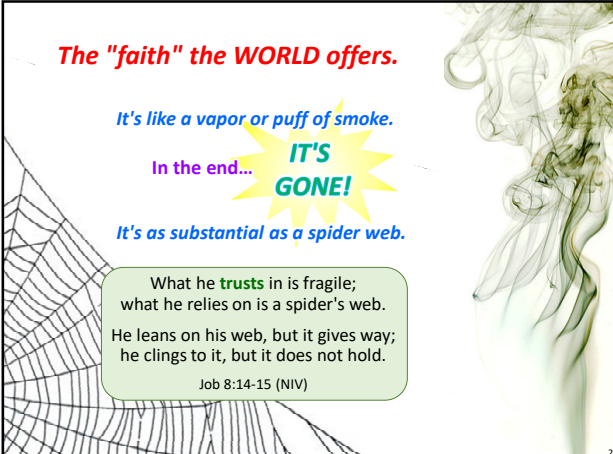
It's like a vapor or puff of smoke.

In the end... **IT'S GONE!**

It's as substantial as a spider web.

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)



2

### The FAITH that comes from GOD.

It has certainty.

It has "substance" – a foundation on which we can base our life – both now and forever.


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)

**But ONLY because it is fact-based and life-controlling.**



3

### UNLIKE THE WORLD AND ITS RELIGIONS, WE HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR OUR FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING.

✓ BECAUSE OF WHAT WE BELIEVE/TRUST...

Things pertaining to the TRUE God, the creator of all things, who unlike the "gods" of human religion is not the invention of humans.

✓ BECAUSE OF WHY WE BELIEVE/TRUST...

Not only the confirmed testimony of eyewitnesses, but because of the very work of God within us.

\* THIS is our focus today. \*

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✓ WHY WE BELIEVE/TRUST...

The REASONS we have this faith/belief = A FIRM FOUNDATION!

### THESE REASONS ARE:

- ✓ BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD DID – the one true God who created us, and who cannot lie.
- ✓ BECAUSE OF WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS – God's faithful communication to us, which includes trustworthy eyewitness accounts about Jesus.
- ✓ BECAUSE OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE – those willing to communicate God's Word, which is the power God uses to save people.

(Scripture has much to say about these things. Our focus will be limited to passages that relate these concepts to faith/trust/believing.)

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### Because of what GOD did.

⇒ He chose to save some.

... and all who had been appointed to eternal life **believed**.

Acts 13:48 (CSB)

⇒ He provided the "open door" to salvation... even to people who were once thought to be hopelessly excluded!

[God] opened the door of **faith** to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27b (NIV)

⇒ Our faith/trust/believing is an **undeserved gift** from God.

... those who, by God's grace [= undeserved kindness], had **believed**.

Acts 18:27b (NLT)

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### The SIGNIFICANCE of this?

People are stubbornly entrenched in sin.  
On our own, we wouldn't want to believe...  
*and we don't deserve the opportunity.*

Yet **God** is at work to make our faith (and salvation) possible.

In past studies, we have seen that people *know* about the true God, but have *suppressed* that knowledge and pursued false alternatives.

What can be known about God is clear to them because he has made it clear to them. From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made. As a result, people have no excuse.

Romans 1:19-20 (GW)

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**WHAT PEOPLE DID** The fact of this God's existence is *not* the issue. Rather, it's the *stubborn, willful suppression* of this fact.

- They also *deliberately ignore* the historical facts of creation and the flood (2 Peter 3:3-7).

**WHAT PEOPLE DID** The historical, eyewitnessed fact of Jesus' resurrection. The world suppresses even this. Yet the very fact they are suppressing points to their future judgment!

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

Acts 17:31 (NIV) – the word "proof" refers to "believable evidence."

**WHAT GOD DID** *In spite of all this*, God has chosen to save some of us!

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephes. 2:4-5 (NIV)

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### Because of what the BIBLE says.

(This includes the faithful recording of eyewitness accounts.)

#### BOTH OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS PROVIDE RELIABLE TESTIMONY ABOUT JESUS!

⇒ Those who accept the Old Testament will accept Jesus.

If you **believed** Moses, you would **believe** me, because he wrote about me.

John 5:46 (NET)

⇒ A New Testament example: John wrote about historic events that would provide a basis for trusting Jesus.

But these are written so that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by **believing** you may have life in his name.

John 20:31 (CSB)

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#### THIS SCRIPTURE TESTIMONY INCLUDES EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ABOUT JESUS, AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY WITNESSED.

⇒ The things he **said**.

##### THE SAMARITANS SHOWED THE PROPER RESPONSE.

Many more Samaritans **believed** because of what Jesus said.

John 4:41 (GW)

##### SOME OF HIS WORDS WERE PROPHETIC, AND WOULD GIVE PEOPLE REASON TO BELIEVE THE FACTS AT A LATER TIME!

I tell you this now, so that when it happens you will **believe** I am the Messiah.

John 13:19 (NLT); also John 14:29.

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⇒ The things he **did**. (This included miraculous signs that they should have believed!)

##### HE DID THE WORKS OF HIS FATHER.

Do not **believe** me unless I do what my Father does.

John 10:37 (NIV)

##### MIRACULOUS SIGNS – THIS IS THE PROPER RESPONSE TO THEM:

... many **believed** in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

John 2:23 (CSB)

The Old Testament told the Jews to look for signs... and also to respond the right way to them!

##### RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD.

[Lazarus] was the reason many of the Jews were deserting them [= the **unbelieving** Jewish leaders] and **believing** in Jesus.

John 12:11 (CSB)

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⇒ His death, burial and resurrection.

##### HIS DEATH WAS GENUINE, AND WAS REPORTED IN SCRIPTURE.

This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account; it is presented so that you also can **believe**.

John 19:35 (NLT)

##### HE WAS BURIED... BUT DID NOT REMAIN IN THE TOMB.

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw [that Jesus was no longer there] and **believed**.

John 20:8 (NIV)

##### HIS RETURN TO LIFE WAS GENUINE.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have **believed**; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**."

John 20:29 (NIV)

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**THIS SCRIPTURE TESTIMONY – ESPECIALLY THE GOOD NEWS MESSAGE – IS THE POWER THAT GOD USES FOR SAVING PEOPLE!**

⇒ It is God's power.

**GOD'S POWER FOR SAVING PEOPLE.**

I'm not ashamed of the Good News. It is God's power to save everyone who **believes**...

Romans 1:16a (GW)

**POWER THAT CONTINUES TO WORK IN THE LIVES OF SAVED PEOPLE.**

When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't the word of humans. Instead, you accepted it for what it really is—the word of God. This word is at work in you **believers**.

1 Thes. 2:13b (GW)

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⇒ The world may call the Good News "foolishness," but it is what God uses to make people wise!

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

...

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who **believe**.

1 Cor. 1:18, 21 (NIV)

... the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through **faith** in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:15b (NIV)

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⇒ To be saved, we must accept the Good News message.

**WHEN GOD SAVES, THE SPIRIT OF GOD WORKS TOGETHER WITH OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TRUTH.**

... from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through **belief** in the truth.

2 Thes. 2:13b (NIV)

**WE MUST ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS FULLY.**

And it is this Good News that saves you if you firmly **believe** it—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

1 Cor. 15:2 (NLT)

WHAT IS THIS GOOD NEWS? SEE THE NEXT SLIDE!

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**The SIGNIFICANCE of this?**

The events of Jesus' life were witnessed by thousands of people.

His resurrection was witnessed by hundreds of people.

Our faith/trust/belief is based on a reliable fact base!

Christ died to take away our sins as the Scriptures predicted. He was placed in a tomb. He was brought back to life on the third day as the Scriptures predicted.

He appeared to Cephas. Next ... to the twelve apostles. ... to more than 500 believers at one time. ... to James. ... to all the apostles. Last of all, he also appeared to me [Paul].

1 Cor. 15:3b-8a (GW)

It is this Scripture testimony that God uses for saving people. God may also use secondary things to point in the direction of the truth. Such things may serve a purpose, *but they lack the power of the truth itself.*

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**Because of the faithfulness of GOD'S PEOPLE.**

God uses people to tell others about Jesus.

*He commands people to tell others.*

*But it must be the truth of Scripture that they tell them!*

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)

⇒ Even Jesus' prayer for us implies the need for this communication!

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever **believe** in me *because of their testimony.*"

John 17:20 (NLT)

THIS TESTIMONY NEEDS COMMUNICATED!

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⇒ Scripture gives many examples of people telling others the Good News. One example...

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas ... spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles **believed**.

Acts 14:1 (NIV)

⇒ Scripture gives many examples of people hearing the Good News. One example...

But many of those who heard the message **believed**...

Acts 4:4a (CSB)

**The SIGNIFICANCE of this?**

WE, AS A GROUP, HAVE A JOB TO DO!

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**OUR MISSION:** "BE FAITHFUL in communicating THE FAITH!"

"THE FAITH!" focuses on the facts, and includes...

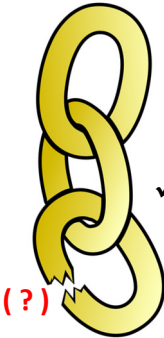
- ☞ The Good News message.
- { As well as... }
- ☞ The rest of what God tells us.

The FAITH God offers us is a firm foundation for ALL of life – both now and forever!

**SHARE IT WISELY!**

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In the "CHAIN OF SALVATION"...



- ✓ GOD is faithful.
- ✓ THE BIBLE is faithful.
- ✓ Are WE?

(?)

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