



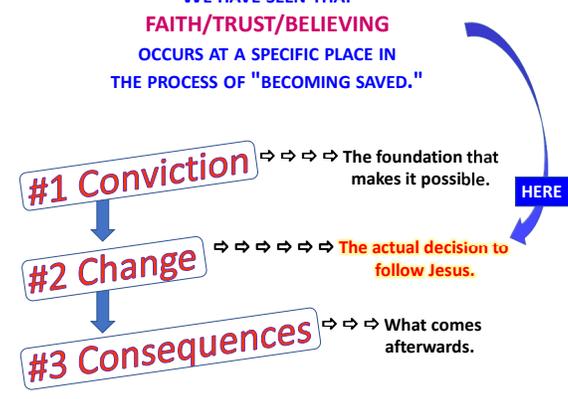
# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#97)  
Things associated with faith (#1).

1

WE HAVE SEEN THAT FAITH/TRUST/BELIEVING OCCURS AT A SPECIFIC PLACE IN THE PROCESS OF "BECOMING SAVED."



#1 Conviction ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The foundation that makes it possible. **HERE**

#2 Change ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ The actual decision to follow Jesus.

#3 Consequences ⇒ ⇒ What comes afterwards.

2

THE IMAGE SEEMS TRUE

## BUT IT DOES NOT STOP THERE!

IT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT LIFE!

3

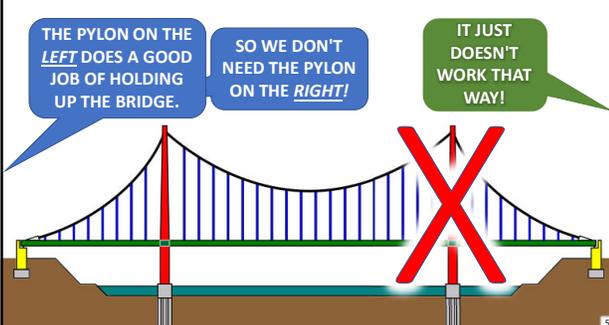
THE IMAGE SEEMS TRUE

WHEN A LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH EXISTS, IT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT LIFE, and certain other things will be associated with it!

We can talk about them separately; but to separate them in life is *totally unnatural*.  
[ When such things *don't* exist, there is no reason to claim that the "faith" is genuine. ]

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Trying to have FAITH without these other things is like trying to build a bridge without half of the support parts!



THE PYLON ON THE LEFT DOES A GOOD JOB OF HOLDING UP THE BRIDGE.

SO WE DON'T NEED THE PYLON ON THE RIGHT!

IT JUST DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!

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CERTAIN THINGS WILL EXIST WHEN GENUINE FAITH IS PRESENT.

- Since sin has distorted our thinking, God shows us in Scripture that they are connected.
- Some may *occur naturally*, because of their inherent connection to saving faith (or some other part of the "saving process").
- Others we *must choose* to do. If we say "NO" to them, it's the same as saying "NO" to saving faith.

☞ The Scripture passages we will see illustrate the basic types of things that will be present, *if saving faith is present*. For those involving a willful choice on our part, their expression may start out small, until we *grow* in our faith.

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**REMINDER**

## GOD IS INVOLVED IN SAVING FAITH.

God's involvement *guarantees* that a saved person will choose to do the things that are associated with saving faith! A *faith that wants to such things* is the type of faith he gives to people!

**THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT GOD DOES, WHICH OCCUR ALONG WITH SAVING FAITH, AND GUARANTEE THE OUTCOME. EXAMPLES:**

- ✓ God's grace (undeserved kindness).
 

For by *grace* you are saved through *faith*, and ... it is the gift of God; ... For we are his workmanship, ...  
Eph 2:8, 10a (NET)
- ✓ The Spirit's work of making people holy ("sanctified").
 

... God chose you to be saved through *the sanctifying work of the Spirit* and through *belief* in the truth.  
2 Thes. 2:13b (NIV)

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**REMINDER**

## THE NEED FOR A *RENEWED (CHANGED) MIND.*

These various concepts are connected, because of the nature of reality, *as God created it*. But people, as rebels against the God of the Bible, have redefined issues and concepts. The result is that people now tend to view them in ways that *oppose* the way God created them to be. *We need our thinking brought back to the way of truth and reality!*

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.  
Romans 12:2a (NLT)

**3 EXAMPLES OF THE WORLD'S DISTORTIONS**

Concept	The world calls it...	What God says...
Sexual activity outside of marriage	Love	Lust and self-gratification
Facts	The opposite of faith	The foundation for faith
The coming judgment day	A "negative and judgmental" concept; should be silenced	A truthful concept; people need warned

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## THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH SAVING FAITH. (OVERVIEW)

The various types of things can be grouped into five basic categories – two of which we will look at today.

Since the examples given are from specific contexts, the way they manifest themselves in *our* lives may be quite different. As we examine our own lives, we should focus more on the general categories – rather than attempting to identify something in our lives that matches every example given.

**THE MAIN CATEGORIES:**

**TODAY:**

- Things at the time of salvation.
- Changes in thinking.

**NEXT TIME:**

- Changes in how we live.
- The effects on others.
- Things that *won't* be present.

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## THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH SAVING FAITH AT THE TIME OF SALVATION.

Some things occur before saving faith is possible; others at about the same time.

**HERE IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT OCCURS *BEFORE* SALVATION, AND REQUIRES THE INVOLVEMENT OF *SOMEONE ELSE*:**

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)

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## THINGS WE MUST (OR WILL) DO, WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SAVING FAITH.

We must hear and accept the Good News message.

**"RECEIVING" (ACCEPTING) JESUS FOR WHO HE IS.**

But to all who have *received* him—those who *believe* in his name—he has given the right to become God's children ...  
John 1:12 (NET)

**RELYING ON JESUS FOR THE SATISFYING OF SPIRITUAL NEEDS.**

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who *comes to me* will never go hungry, and he who *believes* in me will never be thirsty.  
For my Father's will is that everyone who *looks to the Son* and *believes* in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."  
John 6:35, 40 (NIV)

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**PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT JESUS SAYS. [TODAY, THIS WOULD MEAN PAYING ATTENTION TO THE BIBLE.]**

"Truly I tell you, anyone who *hears my word* and *believes* him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."  
John 5:24 (CSB)

**PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGING ("CONFESSING") WHO JESUS IS.**

If you *confess* with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and *believe* in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.  
One *believes* with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one *confesses* with the mouth, resulting in salvation.  
Romans 10:9-10 (CSB)

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IN THE "PROCESS OF SALVATION," SCRIPTURE PLACES THE FOLLOWING TWO IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AND AFTER FAITH:

REPENTANCE (BEFORE/OVERLAPPING)

I [Paul] have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

Acts 20:21 (NIV)

BAPTISM (AFTER)

... many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:8b (NIV)

(They knew what baptism signified; and there was no appreciable time gap between accepting the truth, repenting, following Jesus, and being baptized.)

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GIVING GOD THE PRAISE AND CREDIT FOR SALVATION.

(Nobody deserves to be saved!)

When the Gentiles heard this [= that God was bringing the opportunity of salvation to them], they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were appointed to eternal life became believers.

Acts 13:48 (NLT)



Though these various things occur at the time of salvation, many are ongoing actions and attitudes. They don't stop once salvation has occurred. (That would be incompatible with the nature of salvation!)

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CHANGES IN THINKING THAT OCCUR WITH SAVING FAITH.



There are certain changes in thoughts and attitudes that must/will occur when saving faith occurs. These continue after a person is saved.

KNOWING WHO JESUS IS, AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO US.

They told the woman, "Our faith is no longer based on what you've said. We have heard him ourselves, and we know that he really is the savior of the world."

John 4:42 (GW)

"You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God!"

John 6:68b-69 (NET)

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AWARE THAT THE CONCEPTS OF "FAITH" AND "TRUTH" GO TOGETHER.

[Our goal: for us to] all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, ...

Ephes. 4:13b (NIV)

... I was appointed ... a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

1 Timothy 2:7 (NET)

I [Paul] was sent to lead God's chosen people to faith and to the knowledge of the truth that leads to a godly life.

Titus 1:1b (GW)

↪ When people don't believe the truth of Scripture it is because they delight in wickedness. ↩

[People] who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thes. 2:12b (NIV)

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ACCEPTING WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES.

WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES ABOUT JESUS.

I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ...

Acts 24:14b (NIV)

↪ Unlike many of the Jews... ↩

Some were convinced by what [Paul] said [regarding the Law and the Prophets], but others refused to believe.

Acts 28:24 (NET)

THIS IS WHAT THE PROPHETS SAID WOULD HAPPEN... AND IT DID HAPPEN!

RESPONSE #1

YES, THE PROPHETS DO SAY THAT... AND I ACCEPT IT AS TRUE!

RESPONSE #2

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!

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WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES.

> What Jesus taught. <

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

John 11:25-27 (NIV)

> What the apostles taught. <

With faith and love for Christ Jesus, consider what you heard me say to be the pattern of accurate teachings.

2 Tim. 1:13 (GW)

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### A NEW ANTICIPATION FOR THE FUTURE.

[Paul] spoke about **faith** in Christ Jesus. [He] discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, ...

Acts 24:24b-25a (NIV)

[Paul =] an example to those who would **believe** in [Jesus] for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:16b (CSB)

(God's people can look forward to the judgment mentioned in Acts 17:31!)

A confident hope based on trust in the God of the facts.

Through [Christ] you **believe** in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your **faith** and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:21 (NIV)

I know whom I have **believed** and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.

2 Timothy 1:12b (CSB)

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### THERE ARE EVEN MORE THINGS THAT OCCUR WHEN SAVING FAITH OCCURS...



- ✓ Things in the life of the saved person.
  - Spiritual growth, the fruit of salvation, living as a saved person!
- ✓ The effects on others.
  - Saved and unsaved.
- ✓ Things that won't be present.

These will have to wait until next time.

Genuine SAVING FAITH is so much deeper and richer than the shallow, cheap "faith" of the false gospel – the fake "good news"!

**It leaves us wondering... Why would anyone ever want the fake?**

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## Your mission...

(The same as what Paul gave to the people at Corinth.)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?

2 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

### THINGS THAT OCCUR WITH SAVING FAITH...

Some of them are spontaneous.

Others are the result of a willful choice.

**But all are the result of a changed heart.**

Some of them will occur immediately.

Others will take time and growth.

**But a changed heart results in changed people!**

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