

LESSON #15

FAITH

Texts: **James 2:14-23; Ephesians, 2:8; Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16**

INTRODUCTION:

Let us begin this very important lesson by first of all asking 3 questions and then go to the Bible to find our answers.

1. **What is faith? Hebrews 11:1**

The "assurance of things hoped for" means the assurance that they do exist. I have never seen Mexico City, nor Paris but I have the assurance they are in existence.

2. **How important is faith? Hebrews 11:6**

The absolute necessity of faith is emphasized from **Genesis to Revelation**. It is indispensable to man's salvation.

3. **How do we get this faith? Romans 10:17**

Many people feel that faith comes as a result of some miraculous operation upon the heart.

For a person to say that they have faith is not necessarily saying much. According to the Bible, there is a strong faith and a weak faith. There are those who are said to have a little faith, others great faith.

We are told in **James 2:19** that even the devils believe and tremble. **Mark 1:22, 24**.

This is faith apart from works and is precisely the type of faith, which the entire denominational world insists is sufficient to salvation.

(The book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 1980, page 57) - "Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."

What does the Bible say?

James 2:24; John 12:42, 43.

Man is saved by faith: "**Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved.**" But when is man saved by faith? The moment he believes? Or when faith obeys? The Bible will, as always, give us the answers to these questions.

1. The walls of Jericho fell by faith. **Joshua 6:1-5**
2. By faith Noah and his house were saved. **Genesis 6**
3. The Israelites were healed by faith. **Numbers 21:4-9**
4. Naaman healed because of his faith. **2 Kings 5**

NOT FAITH ONLY!!!!

In no place does the Bible promise salvation on grace alone. If grace alone saves, then all Mankind would be saved with no need of a Savior.

IS MAN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH AND WORKS?

1. Based on his works, what is man's condition?

None _____ good. **Romans 3:12**
_____ have sinned. **Romans 3:23**

2. How then can man be saved?

By _____ are you saved through _____. **Ephesians 2:8**
Not of _____ lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:8**

3. Whose work had production salvation?

Jesus shed His blood for the _____ of sins. **Matthew 26:28**
Christ _____ for our sins. **I Corinthians 15:3**
Christ was once offered to _____ the sins of many. **Hebrews 9:28**

4. What are we to do to receive the blessings produced of God?

_____ and _____. **Hebrews 11:6**
_____ **Hebrews 11:7** _____ **James 2:21**
_____ and _____ **Hebrews 11:30**
_____ **Hebrews 11:31** _____. **James 2:25**

5. What must man do to receive the following blessings?

Eternal life _____ and _____. **John 3:16; Romans 2-6, 7**
Remission _____ and _____. **Acts 10:43; Romans 6-17, 18**
Purification _____ and _____. **Acts 15:9; 1 Peter 1:22**
Salvation _____ and _____. **Acts 16:31; Hebrews 5:9**
Justification _____ and _____. **Romans 5:1; James 2:24**

6. By what will we be condemned or justified?

He that _____ shall be condemned. **Mark 16:16**
We will be judged by our _____. **I Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:12, 13**

God desires that we strive for perfection and has given us a perfect guide to follow. We all fall far short of perfection. The great consolation is found in the statement, **“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10b).**

When we have done the best we can, being governed by the Word of God, the faithful have the assurance that there is a home in heaven.

A final warning: There is a great deal of difference between faith and opinion. Be sure that your life is governed by the New Testament and not by religious opinions.