**“Faith” That Does Not Save**

Most of the religious world today believes that “faith alone” will save. There are a couple of things wrong with this notion. First of all, the only time that Scripture places those two words together in a text is Jas.2:24, *“You see that a man is justified by works, and* ***not*** *by faith alone.”* (see also v.14ff) Secondly, the concept of salvation by “faith only,” as it is also known, usually means to exclude the very kind of “works” that James 2 is demanding. Thirdly, such ignores the fact that Jesus said “faith” is itself a “work” in John 6:28-29.

From these things a question arises- stated negatively for our purposes in this lesson: “What kind of faith will not save?” There is no doubt or argument that true, biblical faith saves, as John 3:16 (and *et al*) proves. But we are still left with the question:

**I. What kind of faith will not save?**

**A. A “System of Faith” will not save.**

Men often use “faith” synonymously with “denomination.” They ask, “Of what Faith are you?” Obviously, this has problems in Eph.4:5 which says that there is but one true *system* of “faith.” Since “faith” comes through the gospel, Rom.10:17, and there is but one true gospel, Gal.1:6-8 and 2Cor.11:4, it quickly becomes apparent that there is but one true, and therefore “saving” *system of faith.* It is true that Rom.1:17 says, *“from faith to faith,”* but it is speaking first of *objective faith* (the faith through the gospel), and then of *subjective faith* (my faith gained through the gospel) demonstrated through the practice of the gospel. The only way there can be “different faiths” (*objectively*) is that there must be “different gospels”! The one true gospel only produces one true faith.

Still yet, it must be noted that even the one true “faith” (in the *objective* sense, will not save unless it becomes *subjective* through obedience, Rom.1:16-17 > John 12:42. So, not even the true “system” of faith (such as in Eph.4:4-6) will save without it being applied through obedience.

**B. Inherited Faith will not save.**

Please ask yourself these questions on this point:

1. Did your parents lead you to Christ, and then you began following Him on your own, or are you just following your parents/grandparents? Cf. John 1:44-50; 4:28-30 > 39-42.
2. Is the Bible your source of Truth, or are your parents?
3. If, for whatever reason, your parents left Christ/His Church, would you do likewise?
4. Now, do you have ***your own faith,*** or just that of your parents?

A *“futile way of life”* can be inherited from your forefathers, as evidenced by 1Pet.1:18; but true faith, the kind that can save, must be personally attained. Your parents can *help* or *hinder* this process, cf. John 9:1-22 > 35-38.

**C. “Indoctrinated” Faith will not save.**

I do not know why you believe what you believe, but I do know this: Unless your faith comes from: a) the Word of God, Rom.10:17; b) and is the result of *belief in the mind* of the fact that God is, Heb.11:6a; c) and includes *trust in your heart* that He will reward your efforts in eternity, Heb.11:6b; and d) results in *obedience with your body* to what He commands, Heb.11:6c, it is not true, biblical, saving faith as defined in Heb.11:1ff!

You may believe what you believe because your spouse does, because your girlfriend/boyfriend does, because the church you attend teaches it that way, or because “good” people you know believe and practice it that way, but none of these will save you, 2Cor.5:10; Rom.14:12.

**II. So, what kind of faith will save?**

**A. Personal faith, one that is your own.**

I do not use the term “personal faith” to mean one in which you get to decide what you will believe and how you will practice (or not practice) it. In reality, everyone does that- but not everyone’s “faith” will save them (cf. Rom.10:1-3; Jas.2:19) as we have already noted above. Instead, I mean a faith that is “yours” in the sense that:

1. You have looked at the evidence around (and in) you in the creation generally, and the Word of God specifically, and are *convicted/convinced in* *your mind* that God is, and that He is the Creator, cp. Rom.1:18-23 > Heb.11:1,3,6.
2. You are *assured in your heart* so that you trust God will reward you in eternity, Mark 12:30; Heb.11:6.
3. You are, because of #1 and #2, willing to *seek Him in obedience with your body/life* to the very best of your abilities, Heb.11:6; Rom.10:9 (He will be *Lord* of your life.)

**B. One that begins, progresses, and ends with Jesus Christ.**

It must begin with Him, Acts 4:12.

It must progress/grow with Him, 2Pet.1:5-11.

It must end with Him, Rom.10:4; Heb.3:12-14.

**Now, is that the kind of faith you have? If not, make changes!**