

EXAMINE YOUR FAITH

The consequence of man's very first sin was his spiritual death. More precisely, this first sin resulted in the corruption of the spirit, inherited by all humankind. This corruption lies in total loss of desire for God; preventing people from trusting God and from choosing righteousness. The consequences of this corruption lead to judgment of the soul after death. Only because God is merciful, full of love and grace, some people receive a promise of salvation from God. God, in His mercy, chose some of us, out of all mankind, to restore life in our souls. His amazing grace reestablished our desire for God and enabled us to choose righteousness over unrighteousness. God gave us a new nature at salvation.

Our new will gives us the ability to choose surrender and obedience to our Holy God. God is Holy and this is why He would never look on our iniquities. Therefore, considering the fact that all people are sinners and come short of the glory of God, He must cleanse our sins before we stand in the presence of God. God's grace in choosing us, causes us to come to Him, in repentance, to be born again in spirit. While washing off our sins with the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ we are born again and we receive new regenerated natures. Only Christ's blood can make us pure, as God is pure. Only Jesus Christ's sacrifice cleansed us of our sins, for we alone are not able to do so. Only by God's grace, are we able to exercise faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His promise of salvation.

Through faith, we surrender to Christ in total obedience. Therefore, God's grace gives us our faith, so we cannot separate our faith from God's grace. In the same manner, our faith results in our obedience to God and our approval of His ways, so we must not separate our obedience from our faith. Salvation is by faith alone, but faith cannot be alone. Satan also believed that there is God. Faith will be sincere followed by good works. Faith without works is dead, because the kind of faith, which is not sincere, cannot bring salvation. If you believe that, you are saved by being born again, but your life style and attitude toward sin did not change since, you received your salvation, meaning that you did not follow your faith with good works, then there is a very good chance that your faith is not sincere. Not sincere means not real and not real means that you are not saved at all.

Believing in God but not doing anything about it is called easy-believism and this kind of believing does not save you. Real-sincere faith shall combine with our repentance. Repentance is a change of mind about sin and repentance combines with obedience to God. At our regeneration, that is our new spiritual birth, God seals us with the Holy Spirit and from that moment on, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. His presence in us changes our attitude towards sinning. The Holy Ghost constantly works in us, helping us sanctify our souls. When we become saved, we begin to be motivated by the Holy Spirit to reject sin from our lives. Our conscience starts to recognize temptations and we develop hatred of sin. Faith means complete trust and trust means approving God's ways and obedience to Him. Because we have faith in God, we obey Him; because we obey Him, we disregard our own worldly ways, and approve and trust God's ways and follow them.

Often people wrongly say that they invite Jesus in to their hearts. This sounds comforting but this kind of thinking is very dangerous. It can lead us to easy-believism. We cannot forget that Jesus Christ is the One who showed us His mercy and gave us the fruit of His grace. We did not choose God, but God chose us. We were dead and He gave us life. We could not invite Him into our heart because we were dead and we could do nothing about it. It was He, who chose us and restored our lives. Jesus Christ is not a guest who comes to our heart. Guests we could ask to leave when we get tired of them. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. In his merciful grace, He chose us and gave us our new life. We are His vessels and His creation. He is the Potter and we are the clay. He does not serve us but we must serve Him. Jesus Christ is our Savior and our Redeemer. If we have faith in Him then we shall obey Him, because if we do not obey Him then the question is: What kind of faith do we have?

Thus, considering the entire complexity of faith, let's try to re-think our attitude towards faith and let's make sure that it is sincere. Surrender to Jesus and obey Him. Do not sin! Spend the rest of your life doing good works and obeying your Lord Jesus Christ! Pray often! Read the words of God daily! Examine your faith often, to be sure that you really are saved! If you are saved, then remember that God shall judge our every work, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.

GUIDE TO SALVATION

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Luke 13:3

...but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

John 3:18

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I Timothy 2:5

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 6:47

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 6:37, 39

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out... And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS NOT SINCERE

II Corinthians 13:5-8

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

James 2:17-26

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then

how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Jude 1:3

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

1 John 1:5-6

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

Proverbs 22:4

By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

OBEYING GOD MEANS: GOOD WORKS AND NOT SINNING

Titus 3:7-8

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Galatians 5:19-26

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

I Peter 5:5-7

...all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

II Peter 1:4-10

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust and beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

I John 2:15-17

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. of the Father, but is of the world.

Matthew 5:44

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 15:8-9

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

John 14:21

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

John 15:18-19

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.