2:16; 3:8, 24; James 2:24). It sanctifies (Acts 26:18). It makes righteous (Romans 3:22; 4:5-13; 9:30-32; 10:6; Galatians 5:5; Philippians 3:9). It makes one a child of God (Galatians 3:26). It saves (Ephesians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:5,9). It causes Christ to dwell within the heart (Ephesians 3:17). It brings joy (Philippians 1:25).

Must Live By

Faith is not a one time word or act which brings irrevocable salvation, called the doctrine of "once saved, always saved." For it is possible for one's faith to be overthrown (2 Timothy 2:18), to fail (Luke 22:32) and be cast off (1 Timothy 5:12). One can err from the faith (1 Timothy 6:10, 21), turn away from the faith (Acts 13:8), be reprobate concerning the faith (2 Timothy 3:8), deny the faith (1 Timothy 5:8) and depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1). So Paul exhorts "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..." (2 Corinthians 13:5).

To be saved by faith, one must live by faith for "the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17: Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). Living by faith includes standing by faith (Romans 11:20; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 1:24), walking by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), following after faith (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22) and fighting the "good fight of faith" (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7).

One must be established in the faith (Acts 16:5; Colossians 2:7; 1 Thessalonians 3:2), hold fast the faith (1 Timothy 1:9; 3:9), keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7) and continue in the faith "grounded and steadfast" (Acts 14:22; Colossians 1:23; 2:5-7; 1 Timothy 2:15).

In order to have faith you must hear and examine the evidence found in the gospel. When Nathanael doubted Philip's claim Jesus was the promised Messiah, Philip simply replied, "Come and see" (John 1:46). Nathanael did just that and he found not only faith but His Savior and salvation. Come and do likewise.

This is the 2nd of a series of 3 tracts

1st tract: "By Grace Are Ye Saved..."
2nd tract: "...Through Faith"
3rd tract: "Faith that Worketh by Love"

© 2003 Wayne Greeson www.padfield.com "For without faith it is impossible to please Him"

Hebrews 11:6

"...Through Faith"

God's Gift of Salvation

2nd of a Series of 3 Tracts



Wayne Greeson

"...Through Faith"

Grace saves, but is this grace alone? God's rich grace, His good favor has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11-12). Grace's free gift of salvation came to all men (Romans 5:18). If we are saved by grace alone, then all men should be saved. But they are not. Why? Because "for by grace ye are saved through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8).

Access into Grace

No one can receive grace's offered salvation without faith, "for without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6). By God's grace all men have access into salvation through faith. Paul wrote, "we have access by faith into this grace" (Romans 5:2). In Christ "we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him" (Ephesians 3:12).

For Whosoever Will

One doctrine says men are unable to come to God in faith for salvation. Thus, faith is not a willing belief of men, but a gift only given to certain men God chooses.

God's Gift of Salvation

God desires all men to come to Him in faith. He invites "whosoever will" (Revelation 22:17); "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden" (Matthew 11:28); and "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

Faith is a conviction residing within the will of a man or woman, a belief. Saving faith is for "whosoever believeth" (John 3:15-16; 11:26; Acts 10:43; Romans 9:33; 1 John 5:1). "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed" (Romans 10:11).

Comes by the Word of God

Faith is not a "blind leap in the dark" but a conviction based upon the evidence of the testimony of the eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19). God gave further evidence by confirming the testimony of these witnesses with miracles (Mark 16:20; Acts 14:3; Hebrews 2:1-4).

This evidence was written down and is found in the gospel (or "Good

News") message of the New Testament (Ephesians 3:1-5; 1 John 1:1-4). Paul explained that the "gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith" (Romans 16:25-26).

The preaching of the gospel (Romans 10:15) is the preaching of "the word of faith" (Romans 10:8; Galatians 1:23; 1 Timothy 4:6) and "the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27) and it is God's means of opening "the door of faith" (Acts 14:27).

Paul described how the gospel produces faith in the human heart. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). When the gospel is preached, faith will be produced in the good and honest heart (Galatians 3:2, 5; Hebrews 4:2; Luke 8:11-12, 13). The gospel "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16).

Pleases God and Saves

Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:6) and accesses His grace (Romans 5:2). It purifies the heart (Acts 15:9). It justifies (Romans 3:28, 30; 5:1; Galatians

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