

Saving Faith

- *Romans 10:11-21*

- **What a glorious day to be back in the House of God & to celebrate His goodness & mercy to a people who are so unworthy. God is a good God, Amen?**
 - God is a Holy God,
 - He is a Righteous God,
 - He is a Just God,
 - He is a Loving God,
 - But a good way to sum up all that He means to us would be to say, God is Good!
- **One of the reasons we can stand here this morning & proclaim the goodness of God is because of what He has done for us.**
 - God loves us so deeply that He sought to come to where we were & meet us in our sin & provide for us something we didn't even realize we needed.
 - God provided, through His Only Son, a path of redemption for all mankind.
 - Not based on ethnic background,
 - Not based on what you could do for Him,
 - Not based on any merit of our own,
 - But based solely on His love for you & me.
 - That church, is what we call grace.
- **Without taking anything from the miracle of grace, I want to also say that as wonderful & powerful as grace is, it accomplishes nothing in our lives unless we receive it by faith.**
 - Without faith, there's no way that you can acquire the grace of God. The grace of God can come into your life only through faith, [Ephesians 2:8, 9](#): "For by grace are ye saved through faith."
 - Faith has been defined many ways, but faith is in essence forsaking my good works, my good intentions, forsaking my sin, forsaking all that I am, I turn my back on all that and in turn I choose Jesus.
 - If you have fallen down, I can extend my hand to help you, that's grace.
 - But you have to trust in me & you do that, through faith, by placing your hand in my hand.
 - So, when you & I put our hand of faith in God's hand of grace, that's salvation. "For by grace are ye saved through faith."
 - Grace is God's ability. Faith is man's responsibility.
- **Jesus gave of His life on Calvary's cross for the sins of all mankind, but we must receive His death by faith or the death of Christ does us no good. Faith is the element or the medium of exchange in the Kingdom of Heaven.**
 - You remember in Matthew 9 when the ruler's daughter was sick & had died, he came to Jesus and ask Jesus to raise her from the dead. That's faith.
 - On the way to his house, there was another lady with a blood disorder who reached out & touched the hem of his garment. Do you remember through what measure she was healed? "thy faith hath made thee whole." (v.22)
 - After Jesus raised the ruler's daughter, He was leaving the house & two blind men followed Him and they also asked for healing. Jesus turned and asked them if they believed He could perform this miracle, to which they replied, "Yes". Jesus responded by, "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you."
- **So now that we have defined faith a little bit, let me ask you this. Is faith just a good thing to have? Or is faith a necessary thing to have? Folks, the scriptures are clear that "without faith it is impossible to please God."**
 - Unbelief is a terrible, horrible sin. As a matter of fact, I John 5:10 says, "He that believeth not God hath made him a liar."

- Unbelief is a slander against the character of God.
 - It was unbelief that led Eve to that sin in the Garden of Eden.
 - It was unbelief that locked the doors of the Promised Land to the children of Israel, it caused them to wander in the wilderness.
 - It's unbelief that sends men to hell.
 - 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."
 - Jesus died, salvation is there, but they refuse to believe and therefore, they're not saved.
 - There's another account where Jesus was in his hometown of Nazareth. And the Bible says that Jesus could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief. Jesus Christ, the Almighty, the sovereign, limited Himself by their unbelief. He allowed their unbelief to keep Him from doing mighty works there.
- **So is unbelief just a weakness or is it something greater? To answer that we have to address where unbelief comes from.**
- Does it come from the head, or does it come from the heart?
 - Hebrews 3:12 – “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief,”
 - I want us to see this morning the importance of true, Biblical, saving faith.

I. Object of Faith

- Let me ask you something incredibly important this morning. What do you place your faith in?
 - Some people think hoping for the best is faith, or giving it your best or whatever.
 - Some people consider faith as trusting in the impractical.
 - But the critical thing about faith is what you are placing your faith in. Faith is no better than its object.
 - How many of you have a GPS in your car or on your phone perhaps? One of the things that I am extremely guilty of is placing my complete faith in this little voice in my phone, regardless of what my surroundings tell me.
 - Illustration
 - It has been said, “It's not the level of your faith, but the object of our faith that saves us.”
- You've got to put your faith in the right place. The object of our faith is Almighty God.
 - Some people say faith moves mountains, but they're wrong. It is God that moves mountains, it's not faith that moves mountains.
 - What did Jesus tell us to put our faith in? Mark 11:22 -"Jesus answered them and said, Have faith in God."
- You say, “But Pastor, my faith is so weak.” God didn't say we had to have strong faith in God in order for Him to move, He just said have faith.
 - Weak faith in God is better than strong faith in anything else. Don't get the idea that because your faith is weak that it won't work.
- If you'll look in the Bible, many who got a blessing from God didn't have strong faith.
 - There was a man in Mark 9 whose son was demon possessed, and he came to Jesus and he said, Master, if you can do anything for my boy, please do it. Jesus said, If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. You know what that man said? He said, Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.
 - We have all been right where this man was. We desire to believe; we want to believe. And as weak as our faith may be, as long as the object of our faith is in God, He can do great & mighty things.

- Now some people don't have faith b/ they have their eyes on everything else BUT God. Let me tell you church,
 - Don't look at others, look to Jesus.
 - Don't look to yourself, look to Jesus.
 - Don't look at circumstances, look to Jesus.
 - Look away from everything else and turn your focus to Him.

II. Origin of Faith

- Now look if you will in [verse 11](#): "So then, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Go back to [verse 14](#): "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?"
 - We all have natural faith in the natural realm.
 - You have faith in the pew you are sitting in.
 - You have faith that this roof will not cave in on us.
 - You place faith in Dr.'s that they will tell you the right things to do to help your body.
 - That's faith in the natural realm. We develop this faith through seeing & experience.
- But if we are ever going to have spiritual faith, we must learn to listen to the Word of God.
 - The only way that you can believe in God is to hear from God and God must enable you to believe. And the instrument that God uses to enable you to believe is His Word.
 - The tragedy is that people refuse to hear. Israel refused to hear. The Lord Jesus again and again cried, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" ([Matt. 11:15](#); [13:9](#), [43](#)).
 - Often, too, those who consent to *listen* fail to *hear*. The energizing power of the Word guarantees, however, that those who hear and respond have their faith quickened.
 - You can hear with your ear everything that I say this morning and not have faith; but, if God speaks to your heart, you've got to hear God, you've got to get a communication of that word from God.
 - And my job is to get you to listen to God as God speaks to you. You've got to hear from God, you've got to hear more than a sermon, you've got to hear more than a pastor, you've got to hear God.
 - Faith comes when you hear from God, when God speaks to you.

III. Objective of Faith

- Look if you will in [verse 12](#): "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him." What's the will of God this morning? His will is that each of us know Jesus Christ as our Personal Savior. His will, His desire is that each of us be saved.
 - The Jews had this blinding belief that those who were not a part of the Jewish race could never be saved b/c they were not a part of God's chosen people.
 - The thought that Gentiles could be equal with Jews was absurd & up until this time, many rejected that thought.
- But God's will has always been that "whosoever will" may come.
 - Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
 - Salvation for all the world has always been & continues to be the ultimate & complete will of God.
- Faith is not man's way of getting man's will done on earth; faith is God's way of getting God's will done in heaven.
- And how is it that we find the will of God? By submitting to Him & following Him in obedience.
 - If you say that you believe God but you don't obey God, you don't really believe him. Faith obeys.
 - Go down to v.21 – "but to Israel, he said, All day long have I stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

- Over and over again, God sought to deliver them & bless them, but over & over again they continued to disobey God.
- Even worse, they refused & rejected the very Word of God.
- The operation of faith is obedience to God. You're not saved by faith and works, you're saved by faith that works.
- You say, "Pastor, is faith the gift of God?" Yes, faith is the gift of God. Does that mean if God gives it then I'm going to automatically believe? No.
 - God gives you His Word and God gives you his Spirit, but then God says, "Whosoever will may come."
 - So, it's time right now for you to do the most wonderful thing that you could possibly do and that is to trust this great God for salvation. "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." You put your hand of faith in God's hand of grace and that's salvation.