

ASSURANCE

“THE NATURE OF
SAVING FAITH”

NATURE OF FAITH

- **Faith is merely the orientation of the person toward a proposition or idea which leads them to give intellectual assent to, have affection for, and act consistently upon that proposition or idea.**
- **Everyone has faith in something.**

NATURE OF SAVING FAITH

- **Saving faith is distinguished from natural faith in these three areas:**
 - **The content of what is believed**
 - **The object of affection**
 - **The subsequent action**

Romans 4:16–22 (NKJV): Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all 17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." 19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

NATURE OF SAVING FAITH

- **Content:**
 - **Faith believes God....**
 - **God gives life to the dead**
 - **God calls those things that do not exist as though they did**
 - **God gives hope where none should exist**

NATURE OF SAVING FAITH: SOME NEGATIVES

- Saving faith is not measured in terms of its strength. ("I'm not sure I believe enough.")
- Do not gauge saving faith in comparison to sanctified faith
- Do not conceive of God as *potential*. "I know God *can* be merciful; I'm not sure He would be merciful *to me*."

NATURE OF SAVING FAITH: SOME POSITIVES

- **Do you believe the promise of God?**
- **Does your faith rest on the content of Scripture?**
- **Is your heart satisfied with Christ?**
- **Is your life built on this gospel?**