

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
DOCTRINE OF SALVATION
PART 2-TERMINOLOGY
“FAITH-PART 2”

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Introduction

Let’s examine the terminology used regarding salvation and what it means as it relates to the matter of being saved by grace through faith.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “BELIEVE” IN CHRIST OR ON CHRIST? (JOHN 3:16; 6:27-29)

When Scripture speaks of our **faith in Christ** it uses terms such as “**believing in**” Christ (*John 3:16*) or “**believing on**” Christ (*John 6:28-29*). Since these terms are used with regard to whether we have “**eternal life**” or not, it is of utmost importance for us to understand exactly what these terms mean!

A. “Believe” Means “To Commit To One’s Trust!”

In our KJV Bible, the Greek word that is commonly translated “**believe**” (*pisteuo*) is also translated “**commit to one’s trust**”

*Luke 16:11 “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will **commit to your trust** the true riches?”*

*Romans 3:2 “Much every way: chiefly, because that **unto them were committed the oracles of God.**”*

*1 Corinthians 9:17 “For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a **dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.**”*

*Galatians 2:7 “But contrariwise, when they saw that **the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me**, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;”*

*1 Thessalonians 2:4 “But as we were allowed of God **to be put in trust with the gospel**, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”*

*1 Timothy 1:11 “According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, **which was committed to my trust.**”*

*Titus 1:3 “But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, **which is committed unto me** according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”*

So, the basic meaning of “**believing in Christ**” or “**believing on Christ**” is **to commit one’s self to Him, to fully trust Him for salvation.**

It means **to believe in such a way that one actually turns away from sin and idols and false religion (repentance) to receive Jesus Christ as one’s only Lord and Saviour.**

B. “Believe” Means “To Be Confident, To Be Fully Persuaded!”

There is another Greek word, “**peitho**”, that is also translated “**believe**” or “**trust**”. It means “**to be confident, to be fully persuaded**” and is also translated as such in other verses.

*Romans 2:19 “And **art confident** that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,”*

*Romans 8:38 “**For I am persuaded**, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,”*

*2 Corinthians 2:3 “And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; **having confidence in you all**, that my joy is the joy of you all.”*

*2 Thessalonians 3:4 “And we **have confidence** in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.”*

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*2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and **am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

This is the type of **faith** which is required for salvation! To be saved, **a person must be fully persuaded that Jesus Christ is everything the Bible says He is! He must be confident that Jesus both can and will save him from sin!**

C. The True Bible Meaning Of “Believe” Clarifies The Problem Of Faith And Works In Salvation!

1. It Is Faith Alone, Not Works, Which Saves!
(Romans 4:1ff; Titus 3:3-7)

Galatians 3:2 “This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

2. Real Bible Faith Always Results In A Changed Life And In Good Works. (Titus 3:8; 1 John 3:1-3)

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Those who profess to believe in Christ, but whose lives remain unaffected by their profession, do not have the type of faith required for salvation.

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II. TRUE FAITH IS BASED UPON GOD'S WORD!
(ROMANS 10:17; HEBREWS 11)

A. True Saving Faith Is Not A Blind Wish Or Uncertain Hope!

For example, the lost man often believes everything will be all right with him after death no matter what religion he follows, because he “feels” that he is OK with God. That is blind faith!

On the other hand, the Christian’s faith rests upon the sure Word of God.

John 20:30-31 “30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

Acts 1:3 “To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”

To have saving faith a person must hear and believe the words of the Bible concerning God’s promises in Christ!

To have daily, serving faith, a Believer must read the Bible often and believe its words.

B. What True Saving Faith Is Not:

1. Mere Knowledge.

(i.e. Mental assent of the facts pertaining to Christ)
James 2:19-20

2. A Spiritual Heritage.

John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

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John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- 3. A Christian Lifestyle Or Profession.**
(Matthew 7:21-23)

C. What True Saving Faith Is:

- 1. Receiving Jesus Christ! (John 1:12)**
Biblical salvation is a personal relationship with the living Christ!
- 2. Coming To Christ! (John 6:35)**
*John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: **he that cometh to me** shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*
- 3. To Be Sure Of Christ! (John 6:66-69)**
- 4. To Know Christ! (John 17:3)**
John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
- 5. Confidence In Christ! (Hebrews 3:6, 14)**
Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 3:14 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
- 6. Ceasing From One's Own Works! (Hebrews 4:10)**
- 7. Fleeing For Refuge In Christ! (Hebrews 6:18)**