

Faith That Lives

“Now the just shall live by faith...” (Heb. 10:38)

Chapter 14: Of Saving Faith

1. The grace of **faith**, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, (2Co 4:13 Eph 2:8) and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word; (Ro 10:14,17) by which also, and by the administration of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, prayer, and other means appointed of God, it is increased and strengthened. (Lu 17:5 1Pe 2:2 Ac 20:32)
2. By this **faith** a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word for the authority of God himself, (Ac 24:14) and also apprehends an excellency therein above all other writings and all things in the world, (Ps 19:7-10 119:72) as it bears forth the glory of God in his attributes, the excellency of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fulness of the Holy Spirit in his workings and operations: and so is enabled to cast his soul upon the truth thus believed; (2Ti 1:12) and also acts differently upon that which its each particular passage contains; yielding obedience to the commands, (Joh 15:14) trembling at the threatenings, (Isa 66:2) and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come; (Heb 11:13) but the principle acts of **saving faith** have immediate relation to Christ, accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace. (Joh 1:12 Ac 16:31 Ga 2:20 Ac 15:11)

Chapter 10: Of Effectual Calling

1. Those whom God has predestined to life, he is pleased in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, (Ro 8:30 11:7 Eph 1:10-11 2Th 2:13-14) by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; (Eph 2:1-6) enlightening their minds [through **faith**] spiritually

and savingly to understand the things of God; (Ac 26:18 Eph 1:17-18) taking away their heart of stone, and giving to them a heart of flesh: (Eze 36:26) renewing their wills, and by his almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; (De 30:6 Eze 36:27 Eph 1:19) yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace. (Ps 110:3 So 1:4)

2. This effectual call is of God’s free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in the creature, (2Ti 1:9 Eph 2:8) being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses, until being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit; (1Co 2:14 Eph 2:5 Joh 5:25) he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, and that by no less power than that which raised up Christ from the dead. (Eph 1:19-20)

Chapter 11: Of Justification

1. Those whom God effectually calls, he also freely justifies, (Ro 3:24 8:30)... they receiving and resting on him and his righteousness by **faith**, which **faith** they have not of themselves; it is the gift of God. (Joh 1:12 Ro 5:17)
2. Faith thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; (Ro 3:28) yet it is not alone in the person justified, but ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, but works by love. (Ga 5:6 Jas 2:17,22,26)

Chapter 13: Of Sanctification

1. They who are united [by **faith**] to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ’s death and resurrection, are also further sanctified, really and personally (Ac 20:32 Ro 6:5-6) through the same virtue, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them; (Joh 17:17 Eph 3:16-19 1Th 5:21-23) the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, (Ro 6:14) and its various lusts are more and more weakened and mortified,

(Ga 5:24) and they more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, (Col 1:11) to the practice of all true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. (2Co 7:1 Heb 12:14)

Chapter 15: Of Repentance To Life and Salvation

3. ...saving repentance is an evangelical grace, (Zec 12:10 Ac 11:18) whereby a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evils of his sin, doth, by **faith** in Christ, humble himself for it with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrence, (Eze 36:31 2Co 7:11) praying for pardon and strength of grace, with a purpose and endeavor, by supplies of the Spirit, to walk before God to all well-pleasing in all things. (Ps 119:6,128)

5. Such is the provision which God has made through Christ in the covenant of grace for the preservation of believers to salvation, that although there is no sin so small but it deserves damnation, (Ro 6:23) yet there is no sin so great that it shall bring damnation on them that repent, (Isa 1:16-18 55:7) which makes the constant preaching of repentance necessary.

Chapter 18: Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Although temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God and state of salvation, which hope of theirs shall perish; (Job 8:13-14 Mt 7:22-23) yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, (1Jo 2:3 3:14,18-19,21,24 5:13) which hope shall never make them ashamed. (Ro 5:2,5)

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of **faith** (Heb 6:11,19) founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel; (Heb 6:17-18) and also upon the inward evidence of those

graces of the Spirit to which promises are made, (2Pe 1:4-5,10-11) and on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; (Ro 8:15-16) and, as its fruit, keeping the heart both humble and holy. (1Jo 3:1-3)

Chapter 17: Of The Perseverance Of The Saints

1. Those whom God has accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious **faith** of his elect to, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourishes in them **faith**, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit to immortality; (Joh 10:28-29 Php 1:6 2Ti 2:19 1Jo 2:19) and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by **faith** they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them, (Ps 89:31-32 1Co 11:32) yet he is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God to salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity. (Mal 3:6)

2. This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election, (Ro 8:30 9:11,16) flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with him, (Ro 5:9-10 Joh 14:19) the oath of God, (Heb 6:17-18) the abiding of his Spirit, and the seed of God within them, (1Jo 3:9) and the nature of the covenant of grace; (Jer 32:40) from all which arises also the certainty and its infallibility.