

Coming to Christ

*A study of the Problem of Sin, Faith, Repentance,
Confession, Baptism, Christian Living*



Lesson 2 --- Faith

The Vital Importance of Faith

It would not be wrong for us to say that faith is our most important response to God. It is by faith we obtain and retain God's grace to us. The Hebrew writer penned in Hebrews 11:6, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

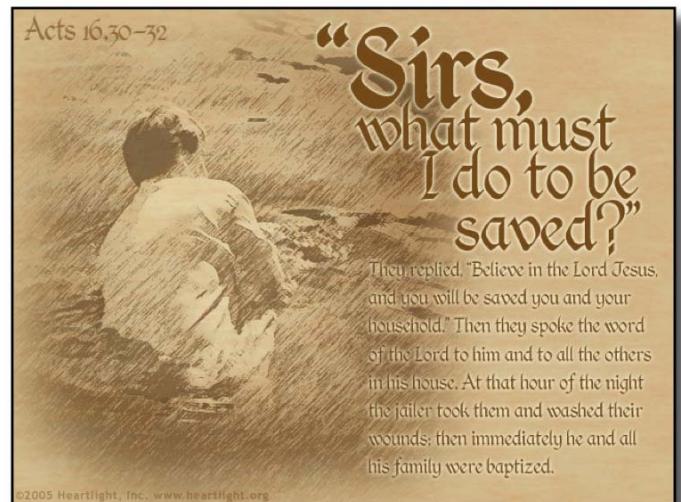
We know that faith is a necessary ingredient of salvation. In Acts 16:30 the Philippian jailor asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" In verse 31, he received his answer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

What Is Faith?

It is important now for us to try to define what faith is. We know that it is important; but just what is it?

1. *At this point in your life, how would you define faith?*

2. *How would you describe your faith to someone who is not a Christian?*



There are two parts two parts to faith. The first part is to mentally believe that something is true. This is a fact or idea that you do not know by experience. You believe it to be true because someone has told you that it is true.

3. *What are some things in everyday life you believe to be true even though you have not experienced them?*

4. *Who has told us about God and Jesus? (Eph 2:20)*

Greek words for Faith

pistos (noun) and pisteuo (verb)-- "assent or belief coupled with trust"

5. *Since we believe based upon the testimony of others, does this mean that our faith has no solid foundation? (Explain your answer)*

2 Timothy 1:12

"...But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me."

6. *What do the following verses tell us about faith?*

--- John 8:24

--- John 20:30-31

--- Rom 10:9

The second part of a saving faith is trust. It is not enough to mentally acknowledge God, we must also trust Him. James 2:19 tells us, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" Mental assent says that there is a God and we believe that He exists (and may even be Lord.) Trust says, I know there is a God and I will put my hope in him. Faith is made up of both mental assent and trust.

7. *How would you define trust? Also give an example of trust in action?*

The trust element of faith is still represented by the same Greek words as discussed above, but it is also coupled with the word "in." We are to believe "in" or "on" something.

See: John 3:16

Acts 10:43

Acts 16:31

1 Tim 1:16

Trust has within it the element of surrender; especially to another person. When we trust, we place our lives, our wants, our future in the hands of another. For example, we trust our doctors with our physical lives when we need their help and expertise.

In our Christian faith, we surrender our time, our hopes, our eternity into the hands of God. We call this "trusting" in God.

8. *What does Romans 3:21-26 teach us about faith?*

9. *What is the relationship between faith and obedience? (James 2:14-26)*

Faith is our response to God's grace (Eph 2:8). In faith, we place our trust and hope in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Faith is a submission and surrender to God as we rely totally upon Him for our salvation. The power that brings salvation is not in our faith, but in the object of our faith. We will see in the next lessons that a saving faith includes repentance, confession of Christ as Lord, immersion into Christ, and a continuing life that is dedicated to Christ.