

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

October 16, 2022

Types of Faith

By Derek Long

In our previous article, we examined different degrees of faith (no faith, little faith, increasing faith, great faith, etc.). The Bible has other ways it describes the type of faith people possess. Let's look at some different types of faith people have.

The Bible mentions people who have a dead faith. A dead faith is a faith without works (James 2:17, 20, 26). Many people in the religious world today want to talk about being saved by faith only. Yet a faith which is by itself without works of obedience is a faith which is dead and will not save (James 2:24). Perhaps there are Christians at times whose faith is dead because they fail to allow their faith to lead them to obey whatever it is God is commanding them to do. Let's make sure our faith is not a dead faith!

In contrast to the dead faith, which does not work, would be, "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6, NKJV), which is said "avail." Such a faith unlike a dead faith, which cannot be seen (James 2:19), is a faith which can be seen by the deeds it causes one to perform (Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5; Luke 5:20). Jesus could see faith when the paralytic was brought to

Him because they did something which indicated they believed He had the power to heal the man. Can people look at our lives and the actions we take and see our faith as Jesus saw their faith? When a person lives by faith (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:20; 3:11; Hebrews 10:38), others around them will notice the difference their faith is having in their life. Do people see us walking by faith or sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)?

Another way the Bible speaks about the faithfulness of some is to describe it as being, “like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away” (Hosea 6:4, NKJV). Some people’s faith is short-lived instead of being long-lasting. It is God’s desire for people’s faith not to fail (Luke 22:32). Let’s seek to be individual’s whose faith is not something temporary and quickly disappearing but a lasting thing in our lives!

We live in a time period where doubting is viewed as something commendable. The Bible will encourage us to “test all things” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, NKJV) but it does not encourage us to “doubt all things.” In fact, the Bible will speak highly of a faith which does not doubt. Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, “Be removed and be cast into the sea,” it will be done” (Matthew 21:21, NKJV). Jesus did not have the notion that doubting is a part of genuine faith. In addition, James 1:6 says, “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind” (NKJV). Doubting is really an indication of a lack of faith. We need to draw near to God, “in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22, NKJV).

The Bible speaks of those who have the same sort of faith as that which Abraham had before becoming circumcised (Romans 4:12). Abraham’s faith before he was circumcised led him to trust in the promises of God (Genesis 15:6). Abraham’s faith before he was circumcised led him to obey God in leaving his homeland (Hebrews 11:8). Does our faith imitate the type of faith which Abraham possessed (Hebrews 6:12)?

Our faith can be the real thing. 2 Timothy 1:5 speaks about how Timothy’s faith, his grandmother’s faith, and his mother’s faith was “genuine faith.” We sometimes encounter the argument that all believers are really fake and yet such is not true. 1 Timothy 1:5 speaks of the purpose of the commandment being to produce love from among other things a sincere faith. Is my faith the real thing in contrast with something fake?

One of the things we share in common with other Christians is our “common faith” (Titus 1:4, NKJV). We believe the same things because our faith is based upon the teachings of the “one faith” (Ephesians 4:5, NKJV), which was “once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3, NKJV). It is encouraging to encounter other Christians perhaps even those we have never met in our lifetime who have a “mutual faith” with us because we are following the same rule of faith, the Bible (Romans 1:12).

The faith of early Christians was spoken about throughout the world (Romans 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 1:8). Of course, this is partially due to the changed lives these people lived (1 Thessalonians 1:9) but it is also true because of them speaking to others about their faith (Acts 8:4). Let’s make sure as Christians we are sharing our faith with others around us!