



Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

He sat quietly. His life was upside down. He just couldn't find any reason to be thankful and his heart was bitter. The question was asked him, "How's your relationship to the Lord?" He looked up and responded, "I believe in God!"

He believed in God. Many don't understand what believing in God means. His intellect tells him there is a God. His intellect tells him Jesus died for him. His intellect tells him the Bible is true. But intellect is not faith.

What is Biblical faith? What is **saving faith**? "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb. 11:6)

Saving faith pleases God. It is impossible to please God without faith. What are the elements of faith that saves? It's a faith that moves people to do the will of God.

Saving faith believes *that He (God) is*. "David claimed in Psa. 19:1, 'The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.'" Paul told the brethren at Rome that by creation one can see His external power and existence (Rom. 1:20). **Saving faith** believes in God the Almighty as all powerful and responds to that power! Paul warned Timothy about certain brethren, "A...holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these." (II Tim. 3:5)

Saving faith trusts! *He is a rewarder...* "It is taking God at His word, trusting Him to do as He says according to His promises. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Prov. 3:5-6)

Saving faith seeks! *A...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* "Saving faith" is diligent in seeking after God and His ways. There is a sincere, earnestness in following God and a continuous seeking after His desires.

Saving faith obeys! The whole chapter of Hebrews 11 bears this out. **Saving faith** calls one to respond to God's instructions. There is action involved. "By faith Abel offered a better sacrifice." (v.4) "By faith Noah... prepared an ark." (v.7) "By faith Abraham obeyed." (v.8) **Saving faith** always causes a person to act upon the will and word of God. When the good news of Jesus was preached, people asked, "What shall we do?" and they were told what God wanted. Those with **saving faith** responded! The rest remained in their sins. (Acts 2:36-41)

Saving faith pleases God, believes that He is, trusts Him for their every move, seeks Him with diligence in their life and obeys His voice (word). Those who say they believe and have little to no response to God, they do not possess **saving faith**, just intellect and intellect never saved anyone! "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." (I Tim. 1:5) **Saving faith** is sincere. Do you have **saving faith**? Think about it!!!

Brent