
How Can I Have Faith?

1. Religion or relationship?

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (HCSB)

For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 (HCSB)

- a.** God transforms our lives, like a master sculptor he works to change us over time.

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the LORD and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the LORD who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (HCSB)

- b.** God shapes our lives uniquely, like a potter with clay.

Yet LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of Your hands. Isaiah 64:8 (HCSB)

- c.** The Bible directs our attention to the facts of Christianity.

- i.** We accept the facts by faith.
- ii.** The feelings are the caboose.
- The feelings are a result, but the caboose always follows the train... never pulls it.

- d.** Three important facts that drive our Christian faith.

- i.** The Word of God.
- ii.** The Work of Christ.
- iii.** The Witness of the Spirit.

2. So how do I know that I am a genuine Christian?

a. Fact of God's word.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn't have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13 (HCSB)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD. Romans 6:23 (HCSB)

My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. John 10:27-29 (HCSB)

b. Fact of God's work of grace.

Justice – getting what you deserve.

Mercy – not getting what you deserve.

Grace – getting what you don't deserve.

i. What is GRACE?

God's

Riches

At

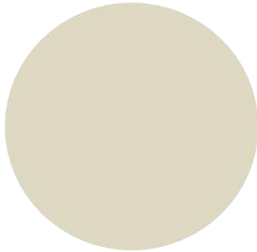
Christ's

Expense

- Although eternal life is free, it's not cheap. It cost Jesus His life.
- Religion is spelled "DO".
- Christianity is spelled "DONE".
 - Jesus lived a sinless life.
 - Jesus died to pay for my sin. He took my place.
 - Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming death for me, for you... for the world.

Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 (HCSB)

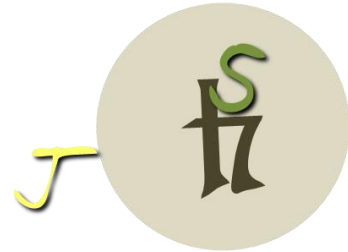
ii. The Great Invitation:



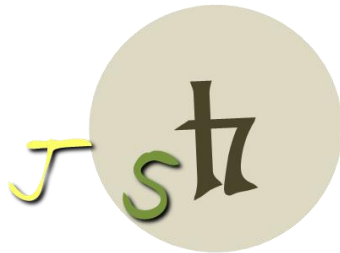
Circle of Life



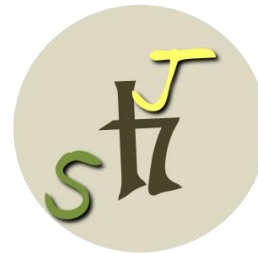
Self sits on the throne



Jesus knocks



Self gets off the throne to open the door



When Jesus comes in, He sits on the throne

c. Fact of God's spirit.

- His presence.

After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him! Matthew 3:16-17 (HCSB)

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. John 14:16-18 (HCSB)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (HCSB)

3. You can know for sure!

- a.** I can't earn God's forgiveness.
- b.** Faith = Daring to believe God's promises.
- c.** God wants us to be assured of our forgiveness and eternity with Him.
- d.** Assurance comes from taking God at His word and not trusting in our feelings.

4. Thief on the cross:

Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!' 4And He said to him, "I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43 (HCSB)

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16-17 (HCSB)

Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30 (HCSB)

Notes



Notes



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