

Believe

**The Second Step In God's Plan
Of Salvation**

The Means Of Acquiring Faith Is Limited

- Bible faith comes from knowledge
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - Acts 2:36-37 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
 - Acts 8:12 - “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”

The Means Of Acquiring Faith Is Limited

- Christianity is a taught religion. One person teaches the gospel to another, who in turn becomes an obedient believer.
 - Acts 8:35-38 - “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized? 37 Then Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.”

The Means Of Acquiring Faith Is Limited

- Acts 10:33, 11:1, 13-14 - “So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God... 11:1 Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God... 13 And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, 14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.”
- Acts 16:30-32 - “And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”
- Acts 18:8 - “Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”

Faith Is Limited To One Path

- Any walk claimed to be of faith by other than the word of God is not of faith
 - 2Cor. 5:7 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
 - Matt 15:9 - “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
 - 1Peter 4:11 - “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

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Faith Is Limited To One Path

- The only true path is the word of God.
- Everyone struggles with faith.
 - Faith isn't a feeling, it is a decision based on evidence
 - It is not wrong while growing in faith to struggle with faith.
 - Mark 2:1-12

Faith Is Limited To One Path

- Abraham worked on his faith
 - Gen. 13:14 - “And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are-northward, southward, eastward, and westward”
- What he saw were lands belonging to others
 - Gen. 13:15-17 - “For all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”

Faith Is Limited To One Path

- He was the land owner because God ordained it, and Abraham believed God
 - Heb. 11:8-10 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

Upon What Does Faith Rest?

- The testimony of apostolic eyewitnesses
 - Acts 2:32 - “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”
 - Acts 3:14-15 - “But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.”
 - Acts 5:30-32 - “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. 31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Upon What Does Faith Rest?

- Acts 10:39-43 - “And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”
- Acts 13:30-31 - “But God raised Him from the dead. 31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.”

Upon What Does Faith Rest?

- The testimony of Old Testament prophecy
 - Acts 2:29-31 - “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.”
 - Acts 3:22-24 - “For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.”

Upon What Does Faith Rest?

- Acts 10:43 - “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”
- Acts 13:32-35 - “And we declare to you glad tidings--that promise which was made to the fathers. 33 God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' 34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' 35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’”
- Acts 17:2-3 - “Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

2Peter 1:16-21

- “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2Peter 1:16ff

- “***For we did not follow cunningly devised fables*** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”
 - “We were not following cleverly devised legends” (Weymouth)
 - “For they were no fictitious stories that we followed” (Goodspeed)
 - “It was not on tales artfully spun that we relied” (NEB)

Upon What Does Faith Rest?

- Our faith rests on the written word of God
 - John 17:20 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word”
 - 2Tim. 3:14-15 - “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

The Work of Faith in Salvation

- Luke 24:44-49 - “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

The Work of Faith in Salvation

- John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”
- Acts 10:43 - “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

The Work of Faith in Salvation

- Every single example of conversion in the New Testament is preceded by faith... believing God, not just believing in God.
 - Rom. 5:1 - “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - Heb. 11:6 - “But 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.”

The Work of Faith in Salvation

- Faith is the motivator, the human variable that determines whether one will choose to accept salvation by obeying the gospel
 - Mark 16:15-16 - “And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
 - Acts 2:36-38 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”