

## Can Faith Really Save Us?

### **FAITH:**

#### ***How Important Is It?***

- ✓ Without faith it is **impossible to please God**  
Hebrews 11:6

### **FAITH:**

#### ***A Biblical Definition***

- ✓ Biblical Faith is trusting God enough to **do what He says**  
Hebrews 11:6/ John 13:17/ James 2:20-26
- ✓ Biblical Faith isn't what **rescues** us – it's what **guides** us  
Proverbs 3:5-7/ Hebrews 11:4-40
- ✓ Biblical Faith doesn't just believe **in God** – it believes **God**  
James 2:19/ Ephesians 2:8-9/ James 2:14-26 & Romans 1:5

### **FAITH:**

#### ***Six Things Faith Is Not***

- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **the absence of doubt**
- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **a vivid imagination**
- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **believing a set of facts about Jesus**
- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **a powerful force that manipulates God**
- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **believing the unbelievable**
- ✓ Biblical Faith is not **optimism**

### **FAITH:**

#### ***The Kind That Can Save Us***

John 3:16 & 14:6/ John 13:17/ 1 John 2:3-5

- ✓ Trusting Jesus **enough to follow Him**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 31, 2010

---

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *Can Faith Really Save Us*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Larry listed six things that faith is not. As you look at the list, which one do you think people are most prone to think is a part of biblical faith?

Is there one that you identify with more than the others?

2. Was there ever a time in your life when you thought good works were what got you into heaven? What helped you learn about the role faith plays in our salvation?

## DIGGING DEEPER

*This week's homework is focusing on the biblical definition of faith and the relationship of faith and obedience.*

1. We heard this weekend that biblical faith is "trusting God enough to do what He says." In John 4:43-54, we read about Jesus healing the son of a government official. In what ways do you see this definition of faith reflected in the official's response to Jesus?

### John 4:43-54

After the two days he left for Galilee. [44] (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) [45] When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there.

[46] Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. [47] When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

[48] "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

[49] The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

[50] Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. [51] While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. [52] When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour."

[53] Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed.

[54] This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee. [NIV]

Can you think of any examples in your life of when you trusted God enough to do what He said? What was the outcome?

2. Larry read parts of James 2 and Ephesians 2 that talk about the relationship between faith and works (obedience). Take a minute to re-read the passages (James 2:14-26 & Ephesians 2:8-10), then answer the following questions.

How does James 2:14-26 compare with Ephesians 2:8-10 regarding faith, salvation, and works?

### **James 2:14-26**

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? [15] Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. [16] If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? [17] In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[18] But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. [19] You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.

[20] You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

[21] Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. [23] And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. [24] You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

[25] In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? [26] As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. [NIV]

### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [NIV]

If you had to explain to someone the relationship between faith and works in your own words, what would you say?

3. When we step over the line by putting our faith in Jesus and become a follower of His, a spiritual transformation happens. What do the following verses tell us about what happens as a result of that spiritual transformation?

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [NIV]

**Romans 5:1**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [NIV]

**Romans 8:1-2**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [2] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. [NIV]

**Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. [NIV]

Is there one of the truths in these verses that you tend to forget? If so, what could you do to help you remember it?

**TAKING IT HOME**

1. As you think about the sermon and homework, is there any area in which you're sensing the need to trust God enough to do what He says?

What's your next step in being obedient in this area?

---

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓