

Evidences of little faith (faith only)
1/5/25

God's Word contains Facts, Commands and Promises. Satan (anagram of Satan) twists God's Word so that God the Father becomes Santa Claus who grants unconditional mercy, forgiveness of sins, and all our wishes according to our will if we pray and believe in Him.

God has commanded us to practice pure religion. Jam 1:27 “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

It is common for religious folks to demonstrate their faith in God's power by offering up prayers on other's behalf without making any efforts on their own. James 2:18:19 “But someone will say, “You have faith and I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that God is one. Good for you! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

A prayer of faith without works was offered in Act 19 by the seven sons of a high priest, Sceva. God did not answer their “I command you by Jesus, whom Paul proclaims.” prayers, but the evil spirits did.

There are many who pray to God, but inwardly, they are too worldly to bear any fruit for the Master. They may wear the costume of the servant of God, but are lawless and dead on the inside. Mat 7:16-23 “By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’

Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!’

God already knows now who bears the good fruit. John 15:1,2 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the keeper of the vineyard. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes to make it even more fruitful.”

BUT remember, we ourselves are supposed to be building God's building, the house of God. 1Ti 3:15 1Co 3:9,10 “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.”

In Neh 4:4 the builders prayed for protection as they built the wall for protection. Vs 9 prayed and stationed guards. Vs 16-18 wise as serpents, but relied on God through prayers.

Faith (belief in fact) and faithfulness (obedience to command) – Example of Abraham

Facts - God told Abraham some facts in Gen 15 about his posterity – Abraham believed and God reckoned (accounted) to Abraham righteousness. Gal 3:6 “Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness (justification).”

Command – Jam 2:21 “Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?”

Promise – God hears our prayers if: 1John 5:14 “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

How to pray - Prayer must be according to God's will. Jesus prayed in the garden that the cup of suffering that He was drinking would be taken away: “yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luk 22:42 It was God's will that His Son receive strength in order to suffer and die for our sins. He was given more strength by an angel. Vs 43

What to pray for - God has revealed His will. Mat 18:14 “your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish”

The harvest of souls - Luke 10:2 He told them, “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Prayers of faith in God are sometimes offered due to worldliness. Jam 4:3 “And when you do ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may squander it on your pleasures.”

The idea of praying to receive things from God without doing our part (faith without works) is one of Satan's old tricks. For instance:

Protestant:

a. Martin Luther - Faith = Assent to Bible (not Roman Catholicism) plus trust (confidence). Luther inserted "only" after "faith" in Rom 3:28 and 5:1 to coincide with his belief. (Assent + trust)

b. John Calvin - Added knowledge to faith: the result was that the word faith came to mean knowledge plus mental assent plus confidence. (knowledge + assent + trust) According to Calvin, this faith was miraculously bestowed. Today's concept is a subjective feeling in the heart that God gives to the person as proof of their faith that they received. The word of God is then made to "speak to the heart" as a result. Of course, this is a totally subjective process.

Calvary Baptist in PA: What believing is: To believe on Jesus Christ as Saviour means to believe that Jesus died for you, paid the price for your sins and that He is the only way to heaven. You can express your belief on Jesus by calling on Him in prayer. Pray sincerely..."Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross and paid the penalty for my sin. I believe that you rose from the dead three days later. I am placing my faith in you alone to forgive my sin and save me. Thanks you for giving me eternal life. In Jesus' name, AMEN."

If you have accepted the Lord as your Saviour today, please contact us and let us know of your life-changing decision. We would like to rejoice with you and send you additional information to help you continue your spiritual growth.

Billboards for Christ: Lord Jesus Christ, you love me. And I know that I have done wrong. I am a sinner. I believe that You died for my sins to make a way for me to go to heaven. Please forgive me of

my sins. I am sorry for what I have done. Lord Jesus, come into my life and take control of my life. I trust You, Jesus. Thank you for loving me and thank you for forgiving me!! Please give me Your Holy Spirit to live in me and teach me. Please open my mind and heart to Your words in your Bible. I love you. Amen."

c. Passages used by Protestants to prove "faith only" salvation. JOHN 1:12 to as many as received Him...; 3:16 whosoever believes in Him; 5:24 believes in Him; 6:40,47 believes in Him ; ACTS 10:43 whoever believes in Him; 16:30,31 Believe on the Lord Jesus. All of these passages teach us that faith is necessary for salvation. There are many other passages; however, that also deal with salvation.

d. They believe that this faith is bestowed miraculously. The Bible says that faith comes by words of the Apostles who were authorized to speak by Jesus. (JOH 17:20) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

THIS SALVATION IS:

1. Without works of the Law of Moses

(ROM 4:3) For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. (KJV) But look what God told him in: (Genesis 15:5-6 KJV) (5) And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. (6) And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Did God require him to do anything? No, just believe that God would multiply his descendants as the stars of the sky. The point that Paul wants to make in the Roman Letter is that God justified Abraham, the Father of the faithful, without any works at all, but when God told him to offer up Isaac, his son, on the altar, he was again justified, but only after he obeyed. (see below)

2. With works of righteousness

(James 2:21-23 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (Remember that impute means to reckon, put to his account, not transfer)

E. It includes confidence or trust. What is the difference between trust and faith? Trust occurs at the moment that you decide to obey.

The Bible talks of different degrees of faith:

(MAT 8:10) When Jesus heard {it}, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found #such great faith, not even in Israel!

This is more than mental assent. It involves a commitment. See also: (2TI 1:12) For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. (NKJ)

When a person's confidence or trust is sufficient to cause them to obey, they are said to have saving faith. Trust or confidence is just a higher degree of faith or belief.

IT INCLUDES OBEDIENCE: (Hebrews 3:18-19 NKJ) (18) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? (19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

To believe is to obey.

Because they didn't obey, they were accused of unbelief. Protestant religions say that obedience is not a requirement for salvation, but belief (Mental Assent) is. This could only be true if God did not ask us to do anything at all. Then the Gospel (Faith) could not be "obeyed", only "believed".

What is the proper Biblical response to "the faith"? (ACT 6:7) And the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. (NKJ)

SEE ROMANS 1:5 AND 16:25. The Book of Romans begins and ends with the obedient faith.

C. WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The question is asked 3 Times in the N.T.: ACTS 2:37, 38 by the Jews, ACTS 22:10 by Saul, ACTS 16:30 by the jailer

Each time the questioners were told to do different things depending on their particular circumstance; but always culminating in immersion.