

Each One Teach One Discipleship Lessons

Part One:

FAITH THAT LOOKS UP:

Establishing your Faith in God

LESSON TWO:

LIVING FAITH

Romans 1:17

In the Gospel a righteousness FROM GOD is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith. And this is not from yourselves. It is the gift of God ,not by works, so that no one can boast.

In *Lesson One* we learned that **faith** is necessary for salvation, because we cannot earn salvation by our works. Salvation is a **free gift** from God. And the faith we need to understand, believe and accept that free gift of salvation is also from God.

"Grace" is a word that means, in part, "free, unmerited pardon." God offers us that *grace*, not because of **what we do**, but because of **who He is**. Instead of allowing us to perish in our sins without forgiveness, He offered His own Son as a "ransom" for us. Our part in this transaction is just to accept the offer by **faith**.

So is that all there is to it? There is a lot of confusion among those who call themselves "Christian" about what should happen next in our lives, after we have accepted Christ.

For some, the plan of salvation goes something like this:

"Each person at birth is on a one-way train trip to Hell. If, somewhere along the way, a person prays the 'Sinner's Prayer,' a switch is thrown and his train gets on another track, this one headed to Heaven. What he does from then on isn't important. He's 'under grace,' which means his train can't be switched again."



Is that in line with what the Bible says? Is just "proclaiming" you are a believer, "proclaiming" you have faith enough?

[James 2:14-22,26]

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no _____? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 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? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by _____, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by _____. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the _____ believe that-- and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is _____? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were _____, and his faith was _____ by what he did.

For as the body without the spirit is _____, so _____ is dead also.

If "faith without works is dead," doesn't that sound like we really **do** "earn salvation" by our works? That is the false conclusion some people come to. The mistake is in understanding what the **role** of works is.

The key is this:

*Works are **not** the cause of Salvation.*

*Works are the **evidence** of a life lived by faith in Christ.*

If I have been sick with the flu, I may have a fever. When I begin to feel a little better, I can take my temperature with a thermometer to see if the fever is gone. If it says I still have a fever, I know I am not completely healed yet. If it says my temperature is back to normal, I am probably well on my way to recovery. Taking my temperature doesn't make the fever go away! The thermometer is not a healing tool. But it gives *evidence* of what is happening inside me.

An unsaved person has evidence of sin in his life. If he says the "Sinner's Prayer," he may **feel** better for a while. But that doesn't mean he was truly saved. What does the evidence in his life say? Does he still live the same way he did before?

[Matthew 7: 13-23]

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their _____ you will _____. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every _____ 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. Thus, by their fruit you will _____. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who _____ who is 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 _____. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Just because you have an emotional experience at an evangelistic campaign doesn't mean you have **living faith**. Just because you can say the name of Jesus doesn't mean you have **living faith**. And just because you start going to a "church" and doing "religious things" doesn't mean you have **living faith**. **Real faith** will bear **real fruit**! Your whole way of life will begin to change. Of course you will not become "perfect" over night. But you will begin to look at your old way of life differently. You will begin looking at things the way God looks at things. If you truly have Christ dwelling in you by the power of the Holy Spirit, your life will show that He is there because you will begin living as He lived. You may have a "little faith" to begin with. But if you respond to the promptings of that "little faith," it will begin to grow and bear fruit.

[John 15:1-8]

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he _____ so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will _____; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you _____, showing yourselves to be _____.

Confusion about this need for evidence of a **living faith** is what causes many to become disillusioned. The scriptures promise power and answered prayer to Christians. Yet many feel their prayers are unheard. Why?

[John 15:16]

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last. _____ the Father will _____ whatever you ask in my name.

It is not that you go out and try to "prove" you are saved by doing good things. If you have to struggle to "prove" it even to yourself, something is still missing. Yes, you may need to "struggle" against sin. But there **will** be fruit you can see in yourself if you have **living faith**. And as time goes on, there **will** be fruit others can clearly see.

If you do **not** see that fruit, you may need to examine your "salvation experience." It **is** possible that you misplaced or misunderstood your faith at the very beginning.

Don't forget:

*Faith is **not** a **feeling** you work up.*

*Faith is **not** how you **look** at yourself.*

*Faith is a **confidence** in God's provision of His Son for your salvation.*

*God gives you that **measure** of *faith* as a free gift.*

*Your part is to **believe, receive, confess** and then **act** on that *faith*.*

How can you **know** that you really love God and are living by faith in Him?

[I John 5:3]

This is love for God: to _____ . And his _____ are not _____ .

[I John 2:4]

The man who says, "I know him," but does not do _____ is a _____ , and the truth is not in him.

It is possible to try to invent our **own** good works. Is that what God wants?

[Ephesians 2:10]

For we are God's _____ , created in Christ Jesus to _____ , which God _____ in advance _____ .

Paul makes it clear in this passage from Ephesians that we even need to accept **by faith** the works which **God has prepared** for us to do. We need to become so sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit that we are willing vessels to do the **Lord's** work, not our own. Just because we do a "good work" in the eyes of the world, doesn't mean that we are accomplishing the **Lord's** work!

There is an ultimate **blessing** for the works we do by a **living faith**:

[Revelation 19:7-8]

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the _____ of the saints.)

And there is also an ultimate **curse** for those who do not have a **living faith**:

[Matthew 3:10]

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and _____.

We want a LIVING FAITH that produces fruit. But a small crop isn't enough! In our next lesson we will consider...

GROWING FAITH

REVIEW:

1. Salvation comes **by grace through faith**.
2. *Faith* is a **free gift** from God.
3. *Faith without works* is **dead**.
4. A **living faith** will **produce fruit**.
5. The works and the fruit are produced by **Christ in us**.
6. Obedience to God is **evidence** of our love and *faith*.

MEMORY VERSES:

LESSON TWO MEMORY VERSES:

Ephesians 2:10

**For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

James 2:26

**For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is dead also.**

REVIEW:

LESSON ONE MEMORY VERSES:

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith. And this is not from yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be "saved by **grace**" ?

2. How can you tell if you have **living faith**?

3. Explain the difference between trying to **earn** salvation by *works*, and having *works* as **evidence** of faith.

4. How is it possible someone could pray a sinner's prayer at an altar with a minister, with weeping and fervency, and still not be saved?

5. Write Ephesians 5:10 from memory:

For we are God's _____

6. Write James 2:26 from memory:

For as the body _____

7. Recite Hebrews 11:6 and Ephesians 2:8-9 from memory.
(And without faith...) (For it is by grace...)