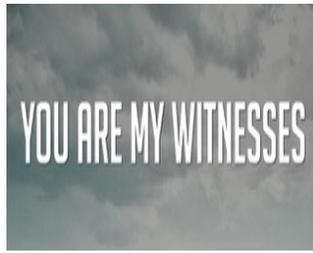


“You Are My Witnesses!”



Part 7: “FAITH: Receiving God’s Gift Of Life!”

John 1:12-13; Acts 16:31; Romans 1:16-17, 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...” – Ephesians 2:8-9

Being “saved,” according to God’s Word, means receiving new spiritual life in Jesus Christ ... ETERNAL life!

John 17:3, 6:29:

Romans 10:9-10: “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved” (vs. 9).

Faith accepts the truth of the Gospel and trusts in the finished work of Christ for the absolute assurance of salvation!

“Faith” is an action word. It requires the activity of your WILL. There is a choice to be made between believing and not believing.

I. The Prelude to Faith ...

True faith is based on true knowledge. It is based on facts, not feelings ... on truth, not lies.

Romans 10:14-17:

Before anyone will respond to the Gospel with true faith, they must hear truth from God’s Word.

Acts 16:31:

“Imaginary faith” is dangerous because it can LOOK like the real thing and make people immune to the transformation that must take place before true faith is exercised.

The old, dead sinful nature cannot and will not CHOOSE to believe ... EVER!!!

Romans 8:7-8:

II. The Source of Faith ...

Jesus said, “Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3,5).

John 3:6-8:

The SOURCE of true faith is always the work of the Spirit, using God’s Word to convict those whom God chooses of sin, of their spiritual standing before God, and of their need for a Savior.

John 1:12-13: “... who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of GOD!” (vs. 13).

Matthew 13:18-23:

II Corinthians 4:1-6: “... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ” (vs. 4).

Since the source of “faith” is not the will of man or the will of the old sinful flesh, the desire to turn must be produced by the Spirit!

III. The Exercise of TRUE Faith!

Romans 1:16-17:

Faith must know the truth and accept the truth and trust the truth.

Heidelberg Catechism #21, #60:

Romans 3:19-20, 21-25; 4:13-16; 5:1-2:

It is the NEW nature that responds to the call of the Gospel and trusts in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and life!!

Faith accepts the truth of the Gospel and trusts in the finished work of Christ for the absolute assurance of salvation!