

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### The Subject: Faith

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace (unmerited favor) are ye save through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift [present or sacrifice] of God--

Acts 16:31 - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved

Faith: Greek: pistis - conviction of truth in another (in opposition to self); belief in truth is not merely assent, but rather doing truth (John 3:21, 1John 1:6). Faith, therefore, is conviction that one must do truth.

Believe: Greek: pisteuo - to have faith, to give one's self to Jesus' instructions; Faith (the noun) and believe (the verb) are from the same word meaning to trust someone in opposition to all else; faith is to die to self that we may live for Christ,

Hebrews 12:2 -- Looking unto Jesus the author (to begin; bring forth) and finisher (completeness; perfection) of our faith (God initiates and completes our faith to the end).

Philippians 1:6 -- He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (the performance of working- faith is all of God)

II Thessalonians 2:13 -- God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification (to be set apart) of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Acts 13:48 -- As many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Man does not manufacture or summon faith in his own heart. Faith is a gift that God places in the hearts of those whom he has foreordained to obey Him (Eph.2:10). Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Our obedience in faith is elected of God (2 Peter 1:2). We were chosen from the beginning to accountability (to be holy and blameless- Eph.1:4). The elect have been predestined to be like Christ (Rom. 8:29). Paul said that all who were predestinated unto faith were called, justified, and glorified (Rom. 8:30). These past tense verbs show that it is already predetermined in the mind of God from the beginning. God requires that which he hath declared to come to pass (Isa. 46:10; Eccl. 3:14,15). God has ordained from eternity the faith of those whom he hath chosen. The elect are saved by the faith of the Son of God (Gal. 2:20), not by a sinners prayer. The "sinners prayer" is a pollution of salvation. Men cannot pray and call on the Lord until they believe in him (Rom. 10:13,14). There is no such thing as a "sinners prayer" by Biblical definition. "We know that God heareth not sinners but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth his will him he heareth (John 9:31). "There is none that calleth on thy name, that stirreth (to wake from sleep) up himself to take hold of thee (Isa. 64:7). Salvation is by believing, not praying. There is none that seeketh after God (Rom. 3:11). Man by his sinful nature will never turn (repent) himself to God. Repent means to be turned and then perceive (Jer. 31:18,19). Only God can turn a man and cause him to believe.

### GRACE AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 1109 Hendersonville, TN 37077

Jim Brown - Bible Teacher • 824-8502

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