

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR FAITH

2 Corinthians 13:5

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: People have the habit of comparing themselves with others, even pertaining to religious matters. Many have lived and died under the delusion that all was well between them and God but were really strangers to God's grace. No one can settle the matter between a person and God except that one person. We are not to examine others but are to examine our own selves by the standards God has set forth. If YOU are in the faith, they you are saved. If YOU are not, then you are lost. God has given in His Word seven essential characteristics of saving faith. Are these consistent with YOUR faith?

I. SAVING FAITH CONFESSES ONE'S OWN DEPRAVITY AND SIN BEFORE GOD

1. Psalm 51:3; Luke 18:13; Romans 7:18; 1 John 1:9
2. Saving faith confesses:
 - the deed of sin (Luke 15:18)
 - the nature of sin (Matthew 15:19; Psalm 51:5)
 - and the sinfulness of all deeds of personal righteousness (Isaiah 64:6)

II. SAVING FAITH LOOKS TO THE BLOOD OF CHRIST ALONE FOR ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD

1. Christ's blood represents His entire obedience to God as the sinners' Substitute.
 - Faith sees everything it needs, everything God requires in the blood of Christ alone.
 - Redemption: Ephesians 1:3-7
 - Forgiveness - Colossians 1:14
 - Justification - Romans 3:23-26
 - Sanctification - Hebrews 10:10-14
 - Reconciliation - Colossians 1:20-21

III. SAVING FAITH KNOWS THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE

1. Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Galatians 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:10
2. Salvation is not a system of doctrine, but in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ and all who know that Person knows that "Salvation is of the Lord."

IV. SAVING FAITH WILLINGLY SUBMITS TO THE DOMINION OF CHRIST AS LORD

1. Luke 14:25-33
2. Faith gives up the reins of life to the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34-35)

V. SAVING FAITH WORKS BY LOVE

1. Galatians 5:6
2. Without Christ, good works mean nothing, and the lack of good works prevents nothing, but in God's Kingdom, "faith which worketh by love" is everything.

VI. SAVING FAITH IS INVOLVED IN WARFARE

1. The flesh and the Spirit are constantly at war within the believer's heart and even though the Holy Spirit rules, the flesh will never surrender.
2. Galatians 5:17; Romans 7:14-24

VII. SAVING FAITH PERSERVERES TO THE END

1. Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 10:38-39
2. Saving, true faith just will not quit.

CONCLUSION:

1. Faith is not a stranger to anybody for everybody has some degree of faith in something or someone.
2. Not any kind of faith is saving faith.
3. Every person who thinks he/she is saved needs to take a good look at his/her faith. Is it the kind of faith that God says is saving faith?
4. *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?..."*