

HOW DOES A PERSON GET SAVING FAITH?

Romans 10:17

Introduction: Thankfully there are many who ask the question "How can I get saving faith?" Most people want to add something to what the Bible says about how to get saving faith for what God says sounds just too simple and people are always wanting to change or add to God's way. It is as plain as if a person is thirsty, he/she simply gets a drink of water without having to understand where the water came from, how the water came to be in the first place and the composition of water, etc. Or if a person is hungry, he/she simply gets something to eat without having to be told about the calories, composition, origination, and make up of the food. We don't need all the details of water to get a drink nor do we need all the details to get a bite of food. It is just not needful for the thirsty and hungry on every occasion to go into all those details. The same applies to those who are asking about how to obtain, to get, to have saving faith - *"...faith cometh by hearing...."*

I. THERE ARE SOME WRONG THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW SAVING FAITH COMES

1. Some believe that saving faith comes by their heritage.
 - Their parents were "Christians."
 - Their grandparents were also "Christians."
 - They were raised as children going to Church.
 - They raised their children to go to Church.
 - Therefore they inherited "faith" from their family line.

2. Some are being taught that it is possible to gain saving faith through keeping the sacraments.
 - Some teach that if a baby is sprinkled with water, that child is in a state saving of faith.
 - Some teach that belonging to a particular "church" places one in a state saving of faith.
 - There is the teaching that being baptized puts one into a state of saving faith.
 - There is the teaching that drinking sacramental wine gives saving faith.
 - Eating the consecrated bread at the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper will give faith, teach some.
 - There is nothing "magic" about being baptized, drinking the wine or eating the bread at the Lord's Supper/Eucharist, none will give saving faith.

3. There are some who believe that saving faith comes by feelings.
 - If they could have feelings of either great fear or delight, then saving faith has come upon them.
 - Faith does bring feelings but that comes from walking in faith and living as the Lord wants.
 - Faith comes from HEARING the Word of God ONLY.

4. There are yet those who believe that true, saving faith can come by dreams and visions.
 - They think that if one dreams about Jesus, or hears a voice speaking, then that gives one saving "faith."
 - It must be remembered that lots of people saw Jesus in person, heard Him speak, even touched Him but yet pierced Him and killed Him.
 - True faith comes from more than imaginations of the mind.

5. Saving Faith does not come from the eloquence or some good quality of the preacher.
 - Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, not the word of man.
 - Whether the preacher stutters, whispers, or is loud, it is the WORD of GOD that brings faith.
 - Faith comes by the word of God reaching one's mind and then that person knowing and understanding it.

II. RIGHT THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW SAVING FAITH COMES

1. Faith often comes by just hearing the gospel simply stated.
 - Some people, like Andrew and Philip, were ready, anxious to meet the Lord Jesus.
 - Some people just need to be informed of the way of salvation.
 - Their minds and hearts have been prepared for that moment when they hear the Gospel and immediately they respond to it.
2. Faith comes sometimes to those who when they heard the Gospel, they felt that it as aimed directly at them.
 - They sometimes wonder "how did the preacher know about that was me?"
 - Upon hearing the Gospel, some feel as if it was written just for them and they respond.
3. Sometimes there are those who come to faith upon hearing the Gospel because not of WHAT the preacher says so much as the fact that GOD SAID SO!
 - They didn't know what God said about believing, nobody had ever told them.
 - They believed in God and God's greatness and tried to do what they thought God would want, but they had just never heard the Gospel part.
 - They responded in faith because GOD SAID SO.
4. Some have received faith because they were influenced by the writers of God's Word.
 - The lives of men like Paul and the others who gave themselves to the Lord Jesus so completely and were faithful to the Lord to their own deaths make quite an impression.
 - If men like those believed in Jesus then there was something to their faith and many believed because after seeing those men's lives and then hearing the Gospel, they knew why those men gave their lives to the Lord.
5. Then the thought about how faith comes by it simply being explained has brought many to faith.
 - No fancy words, no words shouted from a red, sweating face, just a clear, simple, manner of telling the Gospel story.
6. Lastly, there are many who have come to faith through the testimony of others who found the Lord Jesus. Like the Samaritan Woman who found Jesus then ran to bring others to Him.

III. SADLY THERE ARE OBSTRUCTIONS THAT BLOCK THE WAY OF SAVING FAITH

1. There are some people who are simply not really interested who hear the Gospel presented.
2. There are some who when hearing the Gospel have wandering minds and don't really listen.

3. Then there are those who are closed minded, prejudiced and whose minds are already made up, therefore they don't plan on changing their minds or ideas.
4. Sadly, some preachers' presentation is scary, rough, loud and causes one to be put on the defensive.
5. Some don't remember what they heard. Their minds are far away, they are not really "tuned in."

CONCLUSION:

1. What is YOUR present state? Do you have faith that has brought you salvation?
2. Are you "thinking" about possibly becoming a "Christian?" but just haven't made up your mind yet?
3. Perhaps you have some questions yet about salvation, Jesus, etc.
4. Maybe you have never given any thought at all to believing in Jesus Christ.
5. Whatever your reason for not being a believer in Jesus Christ, know this, if you die today, you will go to Hell with not another chance to change your mind/heart/life and since you have heard the Gospel and have been invited to become a believer in Jesus Christ but have rejected God's wonderful grace, then know that your torment will be much greater than that of those who never heard the Gospel.
6. Right now, this moment is the time for you to put your trust, your faith in what you have heard about Jesus! It is the only Way to have eternal life according to GOD.