

## HOW TO GET FAITH

### Romans 10:17

**Introduction:** It is difficult for us to not try to help God in the area of our salvation. We just can't understand how God's GRACE is sufficient, we want to help. No matter how plainly the truth is preached, there will always be somebody who just cannot understand the truth and so they ask, "what is this faith? How can I get this faith that will bring me into God's family and give me salvation?"

***"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God..."***

- If we are thirsty, how do we quench our thirst? Where does water come from? Does it really matter if we are thirsty?
- If we are hungry, how do we ease our hunger? How the food came to be doesn't really matter as long as we get something to eat.
- It isn't needful to know where water comes from or how the food was prepared as long as our needs are satisfied.
  - So it is about God's Grace and saving Faith.

### I. WAYS BY WHICH FAITH DOES NOT COME

1. Some think that faith comes by hereditary descent (inherited).
  - One's family has always been Christians, therefore, I, too, am a Christian.
  - Nothing spiritual is inherited, but the old sin nature is.
2. Some think that faith can come by observing the sacraments.
  - I've been baptized, I've had the Lord's Supper, I attend Worship, therefore I am secure.
  - There is no "magic" about faith. ***"Faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God."***
3. Some think that faith comes by feelings.
  - Like it is some kind of exquisite delight or deep, tearful emotions that sweep over a person.
  - ***"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand..."***
4. Some suppose that faith comes through dreams, visions and hearing voices.
  - They await a voice from the sky or in a dream, directly from God, Himself.
5. Others think that faith comes through the eloquence and pulpit skills of the preacher.
  - It matters not the eloquence and skill of one speaking the Word of God, whether with a lisp, stuttering lips, squeaky voice or a quiet timid person.
  - It is WHAT is said, not HOW that brings faith. The Word of God, no matter how the voice sounds, when spoken will bring faith.

## **II. THE WAY BY WHICH FAITH COMES**

1. Faith sometimes comes by hearing the simple statement of the Gospel.
  - People have longed to be saved but didn't know how.
  - God has people so under conviction that all they need is to simply HEAR His Word.
2. Others have received faith when they realized that they were among those sinners the Word of God spoke about.
  - Their hearts were pricked and they immediately identified themselves among those for whom Jesus Christ died.
3. Faith has come to some when hearing of the authority of the Word of God.
  - GOD SAID SO! God said I am lost, damned! God said I could have eternal life!
4. Faith has come to some who were swayed by the writers of the Bible.
  - Men dedicated to God. Men indwelt by God. Men who gave their lives for God.
5. Faith has come when the preacher simply explained the Word of God.
  - Simply explaining what "to believe" means. "Who" a sinner is. "What" God demands, the waiting punishment, the waiting rewards, etc.
6. Faith has come when a particular point was made that struck the listener as being just for him or her.
  - "That's Me!" "How did you know that?" "God spoke directly to ME!"
7. Faith comes to some when they are satisfied that Jesus is really who He says He is.
  - Often when one has a health problem and a certain remedy or physician is recommended, others are talked to first, who have taken the recommended remedy or used the recommended physician before actually proceeding with the recommendation.
  - Thus it is with Jesus. Some "check" Jesus out before committing themselves to Him.

## **III. OBSTRUCTIONS WHICH CAN BLOCK THE WAY**

1. Some don't care and are not interested in the thing called "faith."
  - They are restless and flit from place to place like a bee from flower to flower.
2. Others don't focus or pay attention.
  - Sleepy hearers are not likely to be led to faith.
3. Some are closed minded.
  - They have already made up their minds and refuse to consider anything else.
4. For some the preacher (speaker) is too loud and rough.
  - It is said that for some, a shout is necessary to get one's attention.

5. Then there are those that the words go in one ear and out the other.
  - They hear the Word spoken but give little, if any, thought to what was spoken.

#### **IV. THE IMPORTANCE THAT FAITH COMES ONLY BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

1. All who hear the Word of God and do not believe it have made God a liar and the wrath of God is upon them. They will have no part in heaven or the family of God.
2. The present state of those who will not believe God's Word is terrible, but this is not the worst part. There is hell, damnation and eternity in it. No more sermons. No more Word of God to save. No more invitations of grace. No more gospel offered.
3. All the opportunities to believe which have been rejected will increase one's torment. Death will not bring release or ease from the hearing the gospel, it will only make it unbearable.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. There is but one way to have saving faith and that is through hearing the Word of God.
2. There is no way to help God's Grace by doing any kind of works.
3. To seek any other way to have eternal life other than God's way is failure and eternal damnation.
4. *"So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God..."*
5. Will you put your faith in God's Word and God's Word only, believing what God has said?