

## ***THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH*** ***(The line of Saving Faith)***

### ***WHERE IS THE LINE OF SAVING FAITH?***

Biblical Presuppositions...

- 1) Faith can be described (cf. Lk. 7:6-9).
- 2) The object of biblical saving faith is the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31).
- 3) Personal assurance is the birthright of every believer (cf. Rom. 8:16; 1Jn. 5:13).
- 4) There is such a thing as false assurance and being deceived (cf. Matt. 7:21-23).
- 5) There is a credible faith in contrast to a hypocritical faith (cf. 1Thess. 1:3-4, 9; Titus 1:16; 1 John 2:3-4).
- 6) There is such a thing as self-examination to see if you are in the faith (cf. 2 Cor. 13:5).
- 7) There is a line where everything short of real saving faith leaves off and where true saving faith begins. A person is either in Christ or out – there is no in-between (cf. Matt. 13:18-30; Mark 12:34).

NOTE: Biblically, believers will not habitually practice sin and rebellion as do unbelievers (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:3-7; 1 John 3:7-10). Repeatedly we are told NOT TO BE DECIEVED on this matter!

#### **1 Corinthians 6:9 (NKJV)**

**9** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? DO NOT BE DECIEVED. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ... (EMPHASIS MINE)

#### **Ephesians 5:6 (NKJV)**

**6 LET NO ONE DECIEVE YOU** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (EMPHASIS MINE)

**1 John 3:7 (NKJV)**

**7 Little children, LET NO ONE DECIEVE YOU.** He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. (EMPHASIS MINE)

Questioning the Line...

- 1) How serious or sincere must one's faith be?
- 2) What exact type of character, nature, and quality does saving faith assume?
- 3) Can faith be determined in terms of degree or kind?
- 4) How much can a believer sin?
- 5) How long can a believer continue in sin?
- 6) Where does head knowledge leave off and a salvific relationship begin?
- 7) Can one discern between a worshipping Cain and a worshipping Abel?
- 8) Can one discern between a betraying Judas and a denying Peter?
- 9) Can one discern between a fallen David and those that do not have the Spirit?

**ULTIMATELY ONLY GOD KNOWS THE LINE:**

Determining someone's questionable spiritual status with absolute certainty is impossible. The wheat and the tares grow together and in the end, only God can ultimately separate them (cf. Matt. 13:30). When people profess one thing and seemingly walk another only God can **ABSOLUTELY KNOW** which side of the line they are on. Concerning "fringe" people only God

knows where that line is and who is where in relation to it. JUDGMENT DAY WILL REVEAL ALL (cf. Heb. 9:27).

### ***ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?***

1. If a person is not serious, then they are not sure, or at least they shouldn't be (cf. Mt. 7:21:23).
2. Personal assurance is the work of the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom. 8:16).
3. We are not the final Judge, but we are to be concerned fruit inspectors (cf. Mt. 7:20).
4. Saving faith is most clearly identified in the spiritual fruit it produces, and it is expected that all saints will bear some fruit on some level (cf. Jn. 15; Mark 4; 1 Cor. 4:5; Eph. 2:10; James 2).
5. Theological textbook cases may show it is impossible for man to determine exactly where a "fringe" person is at but the norm in Scripture is to draw a clear contrast in the distinction between a believer's life and that of the unbeliever (cf. 1 Jn. 3:10).
6. If godly men and women in the body of Christ question and wonder about whether a person is really saved then that person is living way too close to the line (practically speaking) and perhaps they are on the wrong side of the line.
7. The gate is a lot more narrow than most people suspect (Matt. 7:13-14). It's as narrow as SAVING FAITH IN THE PERSON and WORK of the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

### ***COUNTERFEIT FAITH:***

1. There is such a thing as a credible profession of faith (cf. 1 Thess. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:5).
2. There is such a thing as an incredible (ridiculous) profession of faith (cf. Titus 1:16).

3. There is such a thing as a QUESTIONABLE profession of faith (cf. Acts 8:13-23; 2 Cor. 6:1; 13:5; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn. 2:19).

**2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV)**

**19** But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Do you name the name of the Lord? Is He your Lord? "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." This is an acid TEST!