

Are We Saved by Faith Only?

Ephesians 2:4-10

The Plan of Salvation

Romans 1-3

All men struggle with the problem of sin

No Law was able to address the problem

Romans 3:19-23

A righteousness apart from the law

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" Romans 4:3-5

POINT: Our salvation is accomplished through Faith. What is Faith?

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| 1. Hebrews 11:1-6 | Faith – believing in the Goodness of God |
| 2. Romans 10:17 | Faith – believing what God said |
| 3. James 2:17-24 | Faith – doing what God said |

What about salvation by Faith Only?

Invented by Martin Luther as a Reaction to Roman Catholic "Faith"

- Catholic church practiced "Works Alone" salvation
- Faith was held in the church

Martin Luther established the idea of salvation by FAITH ONLY:

The doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone; (it is) the material principle upon which all other teachings rest

"This one and firm rock, which we call the doctrine of justification, is the chief article of the whole Christian doctrine, which comprehends the understanding of all godliness."

***"Faith is God's work in us..... Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do "* (Luther's Introduction to Romans)**

Martin Luther's concept of salvation by faith alone was adopted by most Protestant churches

The Protestant model:

Faith is a mental acknowledgement of God

It comes by divine imputation

John Calvin took this further to say that since God gives faith, He chooses who gets it

Proof text? Ephesians 2:8 "Saved by faith"

Conclusion – Baptism is only a sign of saved

Anyone who teaches we are saved when we are baptized is wrong

The Problems of Faith Only

PROBLEM 1: Simply stated, this doctrine is absent from the Bible. Even the proof text DOES NOT declared that we are saved by Faith Only; *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8)

PROBLEM 2: Actually, the expression “faith only” is found in the Bible, only once: “*You see then that a man is justified by works, and **not by faith only***” (James 2:24)

Wait, what about Paul saying we are not saved by works? “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Doesn’t that mean:

“Confession, repentance, baptism = works”

“Repentance and Baptism = works”

“Baptism = works”

“If you have to do something to receive it, then it’s not a free gift. As Romans 4:4 says, “Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.” And yes, baptism is a work. Repentance and faith is not a work. Baptism is a physical act. It’s a work”

Protestant teacher

PROBLEM 3: BELIEVING IS A WORK! Jesus plainly said that believing is a work – “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent” (John 6:29). In fact, in the list of things we must do to be saved, ONLY BELIEVING is called a work!

How are We Saved by Faith

The Bible Makes it clear that:

1. Faith requires hearing God’s word - John 5:24
2. Faith requires action - James 2, Hebrews 11

Now let’s examine Ephesians 2 carefully: “*Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and **raised us up together** and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*” (Ephesians 2:5-6,8)

In this passage Paul declares that God has “**raised us up together**... for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” Somehow, being raised is connected to being saved by faith. The meaning to “being raised” is clearer in the parallel text of Colossians 2:12: “**Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God**”. Thus saving faith is demonstrated at baptism. No one quotes Colossians 2:12, because being saved by faith clearly indicates being baptized.

But isn’t baptism a work? Not according to Titus 3:5: “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”. In fact, when we consider the call of God to be saved:

I hear (the Gospel message)

I believe (that Jesus died for my sins)

I confess (that Jesus is Christ, Son of God)

I repent (from a life in sin)

I AM baptized (into the death of Christ)

Baptism is the Work of God!