

Faith and Repentance

Ordo Salutis

Effectual Call

Regeneration

Faith and Repentance

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

The Necessity of Faith

Galatians 3:26

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Faith is the fitting instrument of our salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 2:16

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Components of Faith

- *notitia* | *assensus* | *fiducia*

***Notitia* | Knowledge**

- “doesn’t matter what believe, as long as believe with all might”
- illustration of Indiana Jones and the “leap of faith”
- faith itself does not save, but the object of our faith

Matthew 17:20

For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

Mark 9:23-24

²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

***Assensus* | Agreement**

- theological knowledge is not enough to be saved
- faith is not just a cognitive knowledge, but agreement and consent

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

Fiducia | Trust

- illustration of bridge: faith is stepping on the bridge
- faith is losing your balance and putting your weight on Christ
- true faith will always lead to acts of faith

Psalm 52:7

See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

James 2:17

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Repentance

- Greek word – *metanoia*, “change of heart” or “change of direction”
- repentance is *turning away* from sin | faith is *turning to* Christ
- grief about sin, hatred of sin itself, not just consequences

1 Thessalonians 1:9

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. ¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

We repent, not only of the evil things, but the good things we do

Hebrews 6:1

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

Faith and repentance is a life-long discipline

Matthew 6:11-12

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Q87: What is repentance unto life?

A: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

NOTES

The Necessity of Faith

- you cannot be saved without faith

Galatians 3:26

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Romans 10:9

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

So why faith? | Faith is the *fitting instrument* of our salvation

- God could designed it, so that receive salvation *without faith*
 - either, saved without our knowledge
 - or, saved through some act (like, when finish reading Bible)

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

What is faith?

- faith is opposite of good works
- confessing – “I don’t have works; I’m helpless”
- faith is empty hand that receives the free gift of salvation
- posture of faith – beggar who acknowledge poverty, seeks mercy
- therefore, fitting instrument for it glorifies God

Galatians 2:16 We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.

Same point – faith is opposite of doing

- faith is not works

So what then is faith?

- 3 components: *notitia* (knowledge), *assensus* (consent), *fiducia* (trust)

Notitia | Knowledge

- there has to be content to your faith | can’t just be faith in faith
- goes against popular culture:
 - “doesn’t matter what believe, as long as believe with all might”
- illustration: “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”
 - final test to get Holy Grail – yawning chasm
 - reads leather-bound notebook, realizes test of faith, “leap of faith”
 - grips heart, closes eyes, dramatic music, lifts foot, steps into void
 - miracle! camera pans side, stone bridge painted, camouflage
 - Indiana Jones wouldn’t discovered this if he didn’t believe
- faith itself does not save, but the object of our faith

Matthew 17:20

For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.

Paradox of faith

- “move a mountain” is an expression of what is impossible
- “mustard seed” is smallest seed in Middle East
- put together – if faith *this small*, you can move mountain *that big*
- juxtaposition means paradox!
- size of faith doesn’t matter | strength of faith doesn’t matter
- so what matters?
- who you have faith in | object of your faith

Illustration of plane

- 2 people get on a plane – one is nervous; other is confident
- which passenger gets destination first? | more faith, better results?
- not faith that gets you to destination – it’s the plane
- only difference is the ride

Mark 9:23-24

²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

So what happens?

- father expresses weak faith – “I have so many doubts!”
- and Jesus heals the boy
- faith in Christ is all that matters, even weak faith, even full doubts

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Again – faith must have content

- faith can only be response to the word of Christ (gospel)

Assensus | Agreement

- theological knowledge is not enough to be saved
- faith is not just a cognitive knowledge, but consent and agreement

James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!

Satan has perfect theology – but is enemy of God

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

Knowledge without love and without faith is meaningless

Fiducia | Trust

Illustration of bridge

- suppose chased by bear – come to bridge (rope suspension)
- your friends cross bridge safely – now it’s your turn
- you know the bridge will hold you and save your life – but afraid
- faith is stepping on that bridge

Faith is losing your balance and putting your weight on Christ

- no longer hedge your bets, but fall into arms of Christ

Psalm 52:7 See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!

Either we trust God or we trust our riches – cannot be both

- either Christ is our refuge or something else

Mark 12:41-44 ⁴¹ And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. ⁴³ And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. ⁴⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

v. 44 – “she gave all she had to live on”

- clunky translation – “she gave her life”
- she didn’t hold anything back | two coins – why not keep one?
- compare way rich give – they give to stay in control and be safe
- but widow gave without demanding control or safety
- she totally surrendered herself to God

True faith will always lead to *acts of faith*

- difference between dead faith and true faith is action

James 2:17

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Repentance

- Greek word – *metanoia*, “change of heart”
- repentance is *turning away* from sin | faith is *turning to* Christ
- grief about sin, hatred of sin itself, not just consequences

1 Thessalonians 1:9

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

Repentance is turning away from our idols (comfort and meaning)

- turn to God for those things as true source

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

“Cut to the heart”

- conviction of sin and horror of sin | deep remorse and sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. ¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Repentance is not just the feeling of sorrow

- because “worldly grief” is just sorrow about consequences
- but “godly grief” is sorrow about the relationship and the sin

We repent, not only of the evil things, but the good things we do

- Pharisees repent of sins, but Christians repent of righteousness
- Christians repent of using good things as means self-salvation

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.

Faith and repentance is a life-long discipline

- notice, in Jesus’ prayer, we don’t stop repenting
- a religious person is traumatized by repentance (rare and painful)
- a Christian is someone renewed and healed by repentance (deeper joy)

Matthew 6:11-12 ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.