

## Module 05 – 39 Responsibility - New vs. Old – Salvation 6

### Session 39

We are looking at salvation from a new or renewed perspective

Eph 3:16-18 I desire for you to become intimately acquainted with the love of Christ on the deepest possible level; far beyond the reach of a mere academic, intellectual grasp. So that you may be filled with all the fullness of God! Awaken to the consciousness of his closeness! Separation is an illusion! Oneness was God's idea all along!

→ **Experiencing God in face to face intimacy will also expose many false doctrines and theologies as lies, distortions and misrepresentations of truth**

Last time we saw that salvation includes being redeemed from death and lost identity. Salvation is not a personal choice we made but a choice God made before the foundation of the world Eph 1:4

We can now all be free from everything that is holding us in bondage to the SIN which is the DIY tree mindset

- Everything that God has done in and through Jesus must be experienced and those encounters produce the gift of faith that persuades us of the truth

Our salvation is a choice but **not our** choice!

God chose us in Christ before we were even lost, that is real love

What does salvation by faith look like from a new perspective?

- Faith has been made the most important aspect of salvation through the protestant reformation
- Evangelicalism has promoted the idea that we must have faith to be saved
- Is it **our** faith that saves us?
- Faith has been strongly linked to beliefs but **faith** and **belief** are not the same thing

Prov 23:7 As a man thinks in his heart so is he

What we believe is important as it supports our thinking but that is not the same thing as faith

We are saved by faith aren't we?

→ **No, actually we are saved by grace through faith – Eph 2:8**

But whose faith saves us?

Are we saved by **our** faith in Jesus or by **the faith of Jesus**?

This is so important as it puts focus of salvation on us or on God

The doctrine that faith is something we have to have has created faith movements and faith churches

The Christian faith is a term used as a description of the Christian religion

→ **Faith when linked to DIY religion is about us trying to have faith when true faith is only found in relationship not in religious effort**

- Faith has been wrongly focused on us and away from God
- We are told by religion that we need faith to be saved, to be healed etc.
- If we are not healed or blessed financially the accusation is often made that we don't have enough faith
- These accusation can bring people into condemnation

How much faith is enough?

Don't we only need faith as small as a mustard seed?

Matthew 17:20 "... if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you?"

Doesn't seem like much ... one tiny mustard seed.

But mustard seeds grow into great trees according to the parable Jesus told which is beyond our capacity

Everyone can nest in the tree of life which is the size of God's faith

In context what did Jesus mean?

Jesus was not saying to strive hard until you finally squeeze out a mustard-seeds worth of faith

- The whole point is that Jesus was saying, "You have NO faith! Not even a small bit! If you had even the tiniest little bit of faith (which you don't), you could do the impossible"
- We know that the law is powerless to save us because we are powerless to keep it.
- It is the same with faith we can't create enough faith to save us

Matt. 19:25-26 "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"

This is the whole point: salvation is God's business.

We can't do anything to be saved.

We can't follow the rules enough.

We can't believe enough.

We can't create our own faith

Salvation, as a human task, is utterly totally hopeless.

- The Faith for salvation is God's faith not ours
- To try to have enough faith is self-effort and DIY works
- God's faith feasts on the thought of your restored union and oneness with him!  
You are cordially invited to join in the banquet! FDT

**Faith English definition:** complete trust or confidence in someone or something

Strong belief in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof

Our English understanding makes faith our issue but what is the biblical meaning?

**Faith Greek:** *pístis* (from *peithô*, "be persuaded") – properly, persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust)

Faith (*pístis*) is always a gift from God, and never something that can be produced by people. In short, *pístis* ("faith") for the believer is "God's divine persuasion"

Faith is therefore distinct from human belief (confidence), yet produces it

- **The Lord continuously births faith in the believer so they can know Him and be guided by the persuasion of His will**
  
- **In Scripture, faith and belief are not the same. Faith always comes from God and involves His revelation therefore faith is beyond belief**
- **Faith is God's work; faith is never the work of people. We cannot produce faith ourselves, nor can we "drum it up at will." Rather, faith comes as Christ speaks His rhema-word within**

Faith always pre-supposes revelation, "faith is always a response to a divine revelation"

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

- When Jesus told people, "Your faith has made you well," faith was still His gift

Any gift however, once received, becomes the "possession" of the recipient.

Faith continues to produce belief but faith always originates from God and is purely His work

Rom 12:3 ... as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

- **We all have been given faith as a gift so that we can all be persuaded to believe when we encounter God**
- **We can't generate faith ourselves it is never apart from the relationship God has with us as His children**
  
- Definite article "your faith," "their faith" occur over 30 times in the English New Testament
- This is actually "the faith" and refers to "the principle of God's faith operating in us" – not "our faith" in the sense that faith is ever generated by us.

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The translators have **mistranslated** the definitive articles your and their which put the focus of faith on us

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in (the) baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your **(the)** faith in **(of)** the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Him, your and in are not in the original but the and of are

The translators used your and in but left out the of to help us understand!!

Faith is a singular noun, not a verb

Many translations purposely translate it as "you were raised with him through YOUR faith in the working of God..." The word YOUR is not there. Faith is singular, not plural. It is not your faith or our faith... it was JESUS SINGULAR FAITH!

Col 2:12 having been buried with him in the baptism, in which you were also raised through the faith of the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- The faith for salvation is the faith of God not something we produce ourselves

Col 2:12 In the same parallel (your co-circumcision in his death) your co-burial and joint-resurrection is now demonstrated in baptism; your co-inclusion in Christ is what God's faith knew when he powerfully raised him from the dead.

- The focus should be God's faith not ours

- **Faith (*pistis*) involves belief but it goes beyond human believing because it involves the personal revelation of God working in us**
- **Faith is always God's work. Our believing has eternal meaning when it becomes "faith-believing" by the transforming grace of God.**

Rom 10:17 So (the) faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the **word** of Christ.

**Word** does not mean the bible it means the direct word spoken by Jesus to us

- **Faith is the response to personal encounters with God**

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 1:1 Persuasion confirms confident expectation and proves the unseen world to be more real than the seen. Faith celebrates as certain what hope visualizes as future.

Jesus is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of everything the prophets foretold.

- The unveiling of Christ in human life completes mankind's every expectation.
- Faith is not about us trying to believe but is produced in us when we encounter the Truth, Jesus in person
- **Why is this so important? Because it shows salvation is not a DIY work**

Heb 11:6 There is no substitute reward for faith. Faith's return exceeds any other sense of achievement. Faith knows that God is; those who desire to respond to his invitation to draw near, realize by faith that he is life's most perfect gift. Focus is on God not us and belief is a product of faith

Jesus Christ defines God's faith; he is Emmanuel. (God with us) He is the substance and evidence of all that God believes. Jesus is what God believes. Jesus is the way, truth and life faith is all about Him not us

→ **We don't try to walk by faith we walk in relationship and faith is produced**

- **Believing what God says about our restored image and identify comes in a face to face relationship and is what inspires us to live and act from that restored identity of sonship.**
- **We need to see ourselves in the mirror that produces the faith that empowers us to become like what we behold -sons**

We are not saved by our faith we are saved by God's grace which is His divine enabling power

When we stop rejecting the gift of His faith we are persuaded by what God believes about us and we believe.

→ **God knows the truth of who He made us to be as sons and He is seeking to reveal that truth to us – accept don't fight it**

To be persuaded about something we must have evidence that changes our minds that evidence was never expected to be blind faith but a living faith that comes from an encounter with the living God.

Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, disciples, Paul etc. all had encounters that created faith and persuaded them

The faith that is generated when we see the light or hear the truth is a gift that is given so that we can believe what is already true and already completed.

- **We are already born from above, made alive, regenerated, reconciled, forgiven, justified and made righteous in Christ.**
- **God wants to persuade us of this truth**

Everything is by grace through faith. There is nothing we can do to add to or take away from what God had already done in Christ before the foundation of the world and what has been outworked on the cross in time and space.

Let's stop trying to get something that is a gift

**We are and have always been blamelessly innocent in God's heart and within His thoughts; now we need to see ourselves in the mirror of His face.**

**Let God-encounters reveal this amazing truth of our sonship that we are already adopted, accepted and loved unconditionally**

Our behaviour becomes the result of and is motivated by what we believe about ourselves

Either the Sin, the fallen image and lost identity, or the righteousness of our restored image as sons of God

- **God desires to persuade us of the truth through the gift of faith**

Evangelicalism is fixated on “getting saved” and “getting others saved” that type of salvation is entirely all up to the individual, who must make the right personal decision through saying the correct prayer.

Salvation is established upon confession of faith through the Sinner’s Prayer.

- **God has given mankind the dignity of being free to respond to the gospel**
- **The gospel is the power to salvation and produces faith by opening our eyes to the love of God.**

Our will was darkened, not eradicated, by the SIN, and beholding Jesus (however and whenever that happens) empowers us to respond freely to God’s love.

God saves us in Jesus we can’t save ourselves by using the cursed DIY tree path.

**Saving faith is not our faith, but the faith of Jesus.**

If we have to participate in the completed act of salvation accomplished in Jesus, then it would be our part that actually saves us. - insecurity

- **Our salvation was established at the incarnation which includes Christ’s life, death and resurrection and we participate in it as we come to see it with our eyes opened by the gift of faith.**

The context of salvation involves three dimensions.

1. Before the foundation of the world, we were all included; we were all saved in eternity

2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

2. We were all included in the birth, life and death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus

2 Cor 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

3. We have present-tense, on-going experience, we actively participate to work out what God has worked in

Phil 2:12 work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Although mankind didn't do anything in the accomplishment of our salvation (except to kill Jesus), our participation in the working out of this salvation is essential. Our ongoing choices do matter. What we think and believe matters to our ongoing experience of salvation and living by Jesus' faith

Believing doesn't make it true as it is already true but it opens our access

We are part of ALL things He created IN HIM (Christ).

It was God that put us IN CHRIST.

We did not have faith nor were we even there when we died, were made alive, raised and seated WITH HIM.

We were only there because of Jesus incarnation by Him representing ALL of mankind there on the cross and in the resurrection and ascension

Faith enables us to believe what Jesus already accomplished for ALL because ALL are IN CHRIST already

Wm Paul Young quote:

The gospel is not the news that we can receive Jesus into our lives; the gospel is the good news that Jesus has already received us into His.

God does not wait for my choice and then "save me" God has acted decisively and universally for all mankind.

- Now our daily choice is to either grow and participate in that reality or continue to live in the blindness of our own independence.
- **We all have the right to walk by the faith of Jesus in relationship or to walk our own way**

Jesus linked faith and salvation many times

What is the salvation that Jesus was actually talking about?

**Jesus used "saved by faith" in many different ways.**

**Most were not spiritual meanings**

Jesus said to one who was healed, "your faith has saved you" and to one that was forgiven, "your faith has saved you."

Evangelicalism adopted this word saved and gave it a single meaning... going to heaven not "hell" when you die

**We are saved by faith but which saved are we talking about?**

Saved from hell? Saved from sin?

Saved from judgment? Saved as in healed? Saved as in forgiven?

Saved as in delivered from danger?

Saved as rescued from death?

Saved to go to heaven when I die?

They don't all mean the same thing

- **The majority of "saved" scriptures are to do with being rescued from physical danger, physical sickness, or physical death:**

Matthew 9:21, for she said within herself, 'If only I may touch his garment, I shall be saved. (healed from the consequences of being unclean)

Matthew 9:22, Be of good courage, daughter, your faith has saved you,' and the woman was saved from that hour.

Matthew 10:22 You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end [of the Old Covenant Age] who will be saved.

Matthew 24:22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved;

Mark 16:16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;

Many have confused this passage with heaven and eternal issues

But it again primarily refers to being saved from the condemnation-judgment of AD 70

Baptism doesn't "save" anyone; to go to heaven does

Baptism in context meant identifying with Christ and being rescued from the end of the old system

Acts 2:21, 'And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Peter was applying the prophetic promise of Joel 2:

Joel 2:30 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. 31 "The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape,

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Salvation comes by God's grace which is His divine enabling power

Grace works through faith which is a gift

→ **Our own faith can't save us but God's faith given to us does save us**

**There are some 30 or more places in the NT that translators wrongly speak of faith IN Jesus rather than the faith OF Jesus?**

Translators have shifted the burden of faith to us instead of Jesus.

→ **It is Jesus faith that saves us not our faith**

Gal 2:20 and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith (in) of or from the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

What does it mean to live BY the faith OF the Son of God.?

It is Jesus' faith that keeps me alive before the Father. Not mine.

➔ **To live by the faith of the son of God, means to live in the consciousness of the same sonship that Jesus enjoys!**

- We live as sons of God like Jesus
- Sons of God live their lives by faith walking in a relationship where knowing God personally unveils the truth of who we are

Faith is necessary for salvation but faith is not a magical formula we are called to generate on our own.

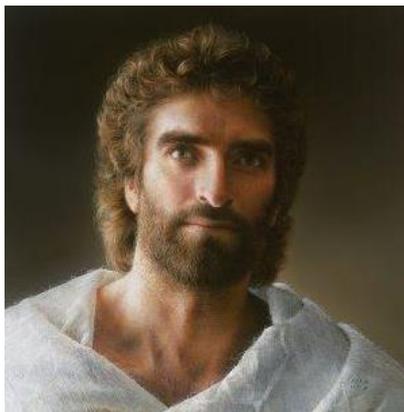
Jesus rebirthed humanity when He stepped into human flesh and identified with our death

Jesus regenerated mankind in His resurrection where He made us alive

Faith is not something we do as much as it is something that happens to us when we realise how much God loves us!

Faith is realised expectation

- **We live by faith of the son of God, Jesus, and we are His realised expectation of relationship**



Close your eyes and begin to think of Jesus  
Let Jesus reveal the truth so you can be persuaded by what He believes about you  
Let the presence of Jesus begin to refresh you, empower you strengthen you, heal you

Let Jesus embrace you let Him give you restored identity as a son  
Let Jesus introduce you to the Father  
Let Jesus and the Father unveil your sonship

Let Father, Son and Spirit open the realms of heaven to you reveal your thrones and positions of authority as sons  
As you encounter let the faith to walk in identity and victory rise up in you