

Assurance of Salvation
Part 42

Faith
(#5)



WARNING

Many who think they are safe won't "make it."

- *Many* people have "**faith**"; *many* call themselves "**believers**."
- **Few will be saved.**

(Worldwide, this would still be millions.)

The offer is there...
but few will qualify.

"For many are called, but few are chosen."
Matthew 22:14 (KJV)

Only those with a
LIVING FACT-BASED FAITH
will be saved.

(We saw this last week.)

Jesus warns us...

Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?"

He replied, "**The door to heaven is narrow.** Work hard to get in, because many will try to enter, but when the head of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. Then you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, '**I do not know you.**' "

Luke 13:23-25 (NLT)

They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:42 (NET)

**** That's all there is to it. ****

FAKE FAITH!

The world offers many kinds; but we can group them into two categories:

- 1) Obviously fake.
- 2) "Look-good" counterfeits.

I believe that all paths lead to heaven.

I believe in a god who loves everyone and will never send anyone to hell.

I believe in human potential.

I believe in my idol.

I believe in reincarnation.

**FAKE FAITH:
Sometimes obvious**

Some people direct their "faith" toward a *false god* (whether or not an actual *idol* is used).



**WE TRUST YOU! PLEASE
DON'T TOPPLE OVER!!**

Others claim they "don't believe in God"



The fool has said in his heart,
"There is no God."
(Psalm 14:1a WEB)

In reality,
ALL people know that God exists.

- But they suppress the truth that they know.

[They] suppress the truth by their wickedness ... what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
(Romans 1:18b-19 NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
(Romans 1:20-21 NIV)

The issue is their unwillingness to face up to the facts about God.

- They would rather go after their own pretensions.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.
(Romans 1:25 NIV)

When the Bible mentions "believing in God," it refers to:

- No longer *suppressing* what we know in our hearts (= the issue we saw in Romans 1).
- Accepting the *truth* about God and the future judgment.

Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

(Hebrews 11:6b GW)

FAKE FAITH: Sometimes a counterfeit

Counterfeits often look appealing. This makes them more dangerous.

The differences are **NOT AS OBVIOUS** as this.

GENUINE

FAKE

Only those with a **LIVING FACT-BASED FAITH** will be saved.

You need *both* "facts" and "life" to have genuine saving **FAITH**.

~~X~~FbF **EITHER BY ITSELF IS A COUNTERFEIT!** L~~X~~F

Emphasizing "facts" without "life"

At least I know the truth!

- Is like having a foundation without the building.

~~X~~FbF **FAKE**

Emphasizing "life" without "facts"

At least I'm doing something!

- Is like having a building without the foundation.

L~~X~~F **FAKE**

Jesus requires *both*.

L**F**b**F** **GENUINE**

 **Beware of the counterfeits!** 

"FACTS" without "LIFE." / "LIFE" without "FACTS."

NEITHER is the **FAITH** of the Bible.

BOTH are easy to get trapped in.



No wonder the Bible tells us to make sure of our salvation!




Examine yourselves, to **see whether you are in the faith**. Test yourselves.

Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?
—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

(2 Corinthians 13:5, ESV)

WARNING!!!

Many "believers" are actually "unbelievers," and they don't even realize it!

Sometimes they turn away from the truth.

Some people are like seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the word with joy whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. **They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it.**

From one of Jesus' parables, Luke 8:13 (GW)

Sometimes they continue as "church-goers" until they die.

Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'

Matthew 7:23a (NIV)

What an unpleasant surprise that will be.

ARE YOU AN "UNBELIEVER"?

- **"UNBELIEF"** (as the Bible uses it) normally refers to:
 - **"I have my own views about God."**
 - **APPLICATION:** Do you accept what the *Bible* reveals about God?
 - **"I do not trust God."**
 - **APPLICATION:** When God doesn't do things the way you want, do you trust him to know what is right?

OR DO YOU FOLLOW JESUS WHEREVER HE LEADS?

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me ...

"My sheep recognize my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

(John 10:14, 27 NLT)

YOUR MISSION

- **EXAMINE YOURSELF**

– as the Scriptures instruct you to do.

- **FACE REALITY** (*and deal with it*)

– especially if you discover things that are not what they should be.

The devil is out to get you.

It's not easy being saved; but the other option is much worse.

Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8b (NIV)

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

1 Peter 4:18 (NIV)

God is out to help you.

If you are willing to follow Jesus, you won't be doing it on your own.

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Matthew 22:14– King James Version (public domain).
- Luke 13:23-25; John 10:14, 27 - Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Romans 1:18b-21, 25; Matthew 7:23a; 1 Peter 4:18, 5:8b; Jude 1:24-25 - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE - NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbible.com)
- Matthew 13:42 - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. (<http://netbible.com>) All rights reserved.
- Psalm 14:1a – Scripture quoted from the World English Bible (Public Domain). (www.webible.org)
- Hebrews 11:6b; Luke 8:13 - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.crossway.com)

PICTURES

- Skull and bloodshot eyes: the skull (only) – [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Skull_and_bloodshoteyes.jpg)
- Skull and bloodshot eyes: the eyes (only) – Public domain, uploaded by ted, via openclipart.org (<http://www.openclipart.org/detail/5426/eyes-bloodshot-by-clipart-modified>)
- Warning symbols (exclamation point in triangle) - [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:TR_!_Warn_Sign_562.jpg)

Credits (2)

PICTURES

- Fire and smoke (various shades of red/black) – Dennis Hinks © 2014 (several modifications)..
- Idol - [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hawaiian_1501.png)
- Fool - By Netherlandish (possibly Jacob Cornelisz. van Oostsanen) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laughing_Fool.jpg)
- Dollar - By Verwüstung at de.wikipedia [Public domain], from Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dollarnote_100.jpg) (also modified for "take" dollar)
- Face on "take" dollar - By Biblioteca de la Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias del Trabajo Universidad de Sevilla (202_056_quijote_cap21) [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:202_056_quijote_cap21.jpg) (modified)
- Rock (boulder) - By Thomas Shahan (boulders Uploaded by Jacopo Werther) [CC-BY-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boulders_%287271554930%29.jpg) (modified)
- Man (on rock) – By Justin A. Wilcox from Washington, D.C., United States (IMG_5634 Uploaded by Justin A.Wilcox) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Breakneck_Romney_WV_2013_07_14_02.jpg) (modified)
- Building - By LostDogPhotos (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carson_mansion.jpg) (modified)

Credits (3)

PICTURES

- Sand [desert] - By Antony Stanley from Gloucester, UK (Erg Chebbi #2. Uploaded by russavia) [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons]
- http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Erg_Chebbi.jpg
- Man in trap - Public domain via Wikimedia commons
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:200909_004_trap_shot_civilians_balk_may_cool_American_lives%22_-_NARA_-_514528.jpg (modified)
- Backgrounds not listed above (and not a solid shade or provided as part of Microsoft PowerPoint®) - Dennis Hinks © 2013
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2014.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree, some might not.