

Assurance of Salvation
Part 43

Faith
(#6)



- Last week, we looked at **FAKE FAITH**.




(GENUINE) (FAKE)

- This week, we begin looking at **GENUINE FAITH**.
 - And its relation to "assurance of salvation."

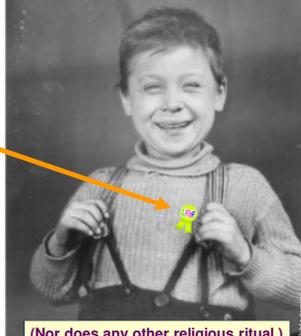
We've learned about **GENUINE FAITH**.

It must be **LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH**.

"L-Fb-E" "L-Fb-E"

But how do we know we have it?

Wearing a badge does NOT prove you have a **LIVING, FACT-BASED FAITH!**

(Nor does any other religious ritual.)

So how do we know?

- Some things guarantee *nothing*.
- One thing guarantees *everything*.

GUARANTEED NO GUARANTEE

Does your **KNOWLEDGE** about **GENUINE FAITH** prove you have it?

- I agree that faith has to be **fact-based** and **living!**
- By now, you probably know a lot about **genuine faith**.
- I believe the Bible is true...
- I can quote every Bible verse about "assurance"!
- But does that prove you have it?

If you think **knowledge** is what it's all about...

- You're *not* the only one who knows what **GENUINE FAITH** is!
- You've got company!

HELLO! I'M YOUR NEW FRIEND!

THE DEVIL KNOWS ALL ABOUT GENUINE FAITH! (See James 2:19.)

"Genuine faith comes from God... I know all about it ... and I hate it!"



(DISCLAIMER: NOT HIS ACTUAL FORM).

The Lake of Fire will be filled with people who know the TRUTH, but it won't save them.

I knew what it was, but I didn't **LIVE** it. **That's why I'm here.**

It's not enough to just **KNOW** about **GENUINE FAITH**.

- Truth is *vitaly important*.
- But it has no value...
 - IF we don't have a **LOVE** for that truth.
 - IF we forget our **DEPENDENCE ON CHRIST** for genuine faith.

Don't forget me!



If you "**believe**" you have **FAITH**, does that *prove* you have it?

- Perhaps you've grown a lot in your faith. You feel good about it, and you feel "assured."
- I "feel" I'm saved...
- I do a lot of "believing"! That must mean it's genuine!
- I'm feeling faithful today!
- If you are *convinced* you have saving faith, does that *prove* you have it?

If you think **convictions** and **feelings** about "faith" are what it's all about...

- You're *not* the only one who relies on feelings!
- You've got company!



HELLO! I'M YOUR NEW FRIEND!

A lot of unstable and deluded people rely on their feelings about "faith."

On Sunday I felt saved;
on Monday I didn't;
on Tuesday...
When will I know for sure?

Maybe if I try to believe a little harder!



So do lots of cults and "fringe groups"

When you let go of God's **TRUTH** foundation, there is no limit to how far you can stray.

But you might still think you have "faith"!

FOLLOW ME!
JUST BELIEVE!!



The Lake of Fire will be filled with people who were convinced they were saved, but just being convinced won't save them.

I used to "feel" saved...
But now I don't.

It's not enough to just **FEEL** you have **GENUINE FAITH**.

- "Convictions" and "good feelings" about salvation may seem pleasant, but ...
 - They are unstable, and can be fake.
 - Even music or a good meal can influence them.



SOME

IMPORTANT

DISTINCTIONS

Salvation is a "YES or NO" issue.

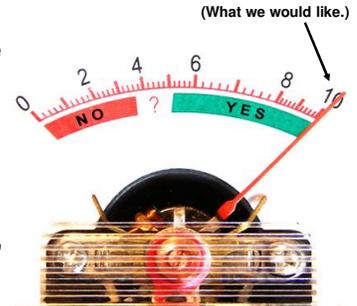
- It's "all or none," something that GOD does.
- Assurance of salvation is **NOT LIKE THIS.**



* (Unlike this switch, once salvation is "ON," it cannot be turned "OFF.")

Assurance of salvation GROWS

- *It increases* as we become more like Christ in our thoughts and actions.
- It is based on changes in one's life, not "feelings" about faith.



"Feelings" about faith cannot be trusted!!!

He loves me,
He loves me not,
He loves me,
He loves me not...

- They can *change* with circumstances.
- They can be *deceptive*.

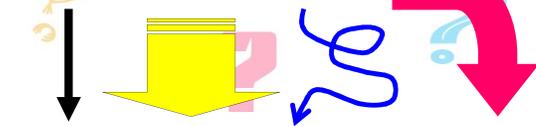
- Unsaved people can "feel" saved.
- Saved people can "feel" unsaved.



WHAT PART OF "FAITH" GIVES YOU **PROOF** THAT YOU HAVE IT?

- NOT the "**knowledge**" you may know about faith.
- NOT the "**feelings**" you may have about faith.

- **THIS is what you can rely on...**



Jesus Christ and *his* role in our **faith** and salvation.

- **What HE did** is what matters.
- And if he did it...
 - it will be **genuine**.
 - *the evidence will be visible in our lives.*

So, what did he do?

More about this later!

- In the meantime...

YOUR MISSION

For assurance that you have genuine faith:

Rely on **JESUS CHRIST**
and what he is doing in your life.

The basis for our **FAITH** and salvation is:

- Jesus Christ
- **NOT** our imperfect knowledge and fleeting feelings

Focus on **GROWING**
in your faith and salvation

- **Learning** the will of God (in Scripture).
- **Trusting** God for the power to **obey!**

In doing this, your life will be characterized by the word "LOVE."

{ Love for GOD and
Love for NEIGHBOR (both friend and enemy) }

After all...

Without love, our "faith" is worthless,
no matter how "assured" we may feel.

... if I have a **faith** that can move mountains, but have not **love**, I am nothing.

(1 Cor. 13:2b NIV)

Credits (1)

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