

Faith

E. The Distinguishing Marks of Saving Faith

-Key Passage: The Parable of the Sower (Soils) (Matt. 13:3-8; 18-23 Mark 4:3-9; 14-20 Luke 8:5-8; 11-15)

-Not necessarily distinguished by strength (Matt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8 Luke 12:28 John 20:25 Rom. 4:19) or accompanied by assurance (Heb. 3:6; 10:19-23, 35 1 John 3:19-21; 5:13)

-Distinguished by perseverance (Matt. 10:22; 13:20, 21; 24:13 Mark 4:16, 17 Luke 8:13, 15 John 8:31 Acts 8:13 Heb. 3:14; 6:11; 10:39 1 John 5:4, 5 Rev. 2: 7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7); supreme loyalty to Christ (Matt. 7:24-27; 10:37, 38; 19:29 Mark 10:29, 30 Luke 6:46-49; 14:25-35; 18:29 John 8:31; 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10 Gal. 2:20 1 John 2:3-6; 5:3); universal holiness and obedience (Matt. 7:15-23 John 3:36; 10:26, 27; 15:1-6 Acts 6:7 Rom. 1:5; 16:26 Gal. 5:6 1 Thess. 1:3 Heb. 11:8 James 2:14-26); confession of Christ (Rom. 10:9, 10 1 Cor. 12:3 1 Pet. 3:13-16 1 John 4:2, 3 Baptism: Matt. 3:6 Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36-38; 10:48; 16:14, 15, 31-33; 18:8; 19:4, 5)

IV. Motivations and Inducements to Faith

-In conversion: The Threat of Wrath, Condemnation, and Death (Is. 2:10, 19, 21 with 2 Thess. 1:7-9 and Rev. 6:15-17 John 3:18, 36; 8:24 1 Pet. 4:17, 18 Rev. 20:14; 21:8); The Reward of Life and Salvation (John 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:40 Acts 10:43; 26:18 Eph 1:11 Col. 1:12 1 Pet. 1:4)

-In the Christian Life: Christ promises to supply all the strength we need to perform the tasks he has given us (Luke 17:5-10). Answer to believing prayer is held out as a motivation to faith (Matt. 21:22 Mark 11:24 Luke 18:1-8 James 1:6-8).

V. The Role of Faith in the Application of Salvation

-In Conversion: Faith is the exclusive means of appropriating Christ and His salvation (John 3:36 Acts 13:39; 16:31; 20:21 Rom. 10:14 Gal. 2:16; 3:2, 5; 26 with 4:5 Eph. 1:13; 2:8, 9).

-Exposes three errors: something other than faith can be used to acquire salvation; adding something to faith can be used to acquire salvation; exalting faith to the place of the Savior

-In the Christian Life: Faith is the exclusive means of appropriating persevering grace (Matt. 13:20, 21 Luke 8:13, 15 Eph. 6:16 2 Tim. 2:22 Heb. 6:11, 12; 10:35-39 James 1:2, 3, 12 1 Pet. 1:6, 7; 5:7, 8 1 John 5:4, 5).