

AM WORKSHEET

Title: Saving Faith, Pt 1 | **Text:** James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; Various.

Intro: We looked at *Repentance Unto Life* the last 2 Sundays. Now, we want to look at *Saving Faith*. Remember, repentance unto life & saving faith are given by God in the new birth (regeneration) and are inseparable. Distinct, but inseparable. This Sunday we will focus on certain aspects of the kind of faith that saves.

There is a faith we exhibit in our lives that does not save us from our sins.

- Faith in objects
- Faith in persons
- Faith in self
- Faith that is religious, yet misplaced (w/o Christ; w/o the Father)
- Faith that is religious, yet false – God calls it a “dead” faith (w/o fruit)

Catechism Q69. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,¹ whereby we **receive**,² and **rest** upon Him alone for salvation,³ as He is set forth in the gospel.⁴

1. Heb 10:39. 2. Jn 1:12. 3. Php 3:9. 4. Isa 33:22.

- Faith in Christ Jesus *given by God's grace as a gift*—saving regenerate believers, Heb 10:39
- Faith that *receives Him alone* for salvation, Jn 1:12
- Faith that *rests in Him alone* for salvation, Php 3:9; Isa 33:22; Jer 23:6
- Faith that receives & rests in Him alone *as He is set forth in the gospel*, Rom 3:21-26
- We want to focus on 2 aspects of Saving Faith: *Receiving & Resting* in Christ alone; plus 1 more: *Reaching out* in faith to Christ.

1A SAVING FAITH REACHES OUT TO GOD THRU CHRIST

1B “Reaching out” to God lies at the very heart of the kind of faith He gives in regeneration

- A believing dependence on God: in His almighty power; in His power to deliver from sin; in His will to deliver us from all our sins; & in His willingness to act on behalf of His own.
- The object of saving faith: God thru Christ—His Only Begotten. Our eyes are ever upon Christ.

2B “Reaching out” to Christ is the way we reach out to God in faith—believing Him & His Word

- Jn 14:6. Only thru Christ can we come to the Father.
- Jn 10:22-29. We belong to Christ, hear Christ, follow Christ.
- Rom 5:12; 3:23. All have sinned in Adam.
- 1 Jn 3:8b. Christ came to undo what Adam did & destroy the devil's work.
- Heb 10:39; 1 Jn 3:2. We don't turn away from Christ, we press forward to receive & rest in God; persevering in our faith like Christ to the very end; like Him, perfected in our humanity when He returns.

2A SAVING FAITH RECEIVES FROM GOD & RESTS IN CHRIST