

The Doctrine of Salvation

A Study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 - Oct. 7, 2018

The Ordo Salutis

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Conversion: Repentance and Faith

- The first act of a regenerated sinner's new nature is the conscious decision to repent of sin and believe in Christ for salvation. Finally furnished with the ability to perceive reality as it is, the newborn soul necessarily and immediately turns away in revulsion from sin and eagerly runs to embrace Christ. - MacArthur, pg. 590
- Turning away from sin = repentance
- Turning to Christ = faith
- This is one act and repentance and faith are inseparable, two sides of the same coin of conversion. You cannot turn away from something without turning toward something else.

What is Faith?

- Saving faith is a fundamental commitment of the whole person to the whole Christ; with his mind, heart, and will, the believer embraces Jesus as Savior, Advocate, Provider, Sustainer, Counselor, and Lord God. - MacArthur, pg. 596
- The mind embraces knowledge, a recognition and understanding of the truth concerning the Person and Work of Christ. The heart gives assent, or the settled confidence and affirmation that Christ's salvation is suitable to one's spiritual need. The will responds with trust, the personal commitment to and appropriation of Christ as the only hope for eternal salvation. - MacArthur, pg. 596
- Hebrews 11:1, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But 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 diligently seek Him.

Where Does Faith Come From?

- As we have looked at “faith” by defining what it is (taking God at His Word) and what its object must be (Jesus), now we are going to answer another question about the nature of saving faith, namely, “Where does faith come from?”
- We have examined a few answers that run contrary to the Word of God so that we could see where faith does not come from. As we learned, faith does not come from men. We cannot say it more simply that this - faith is not produced by, inherent in, or available to any person without outside intervention by the Holy Spirit.
- So where does faith come from? If it is not something we already have and can pull out and use *at will*, then where do we get faith? We know that the gospel must be believed for people to be saved, so where does the ability to trust God come from? Where does saving faith originate? The answer is that faith is a gift from God given through the hearing of the Word of God applied by the power of the Holy Spirit as He produces spiritual fruit in our lives.

Faith is a Gift

- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9
- Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. - Acts 13:48
- Who believed? Those to whom it was appointed. This shows that God gives faith for the specific purpose that people will believe and be saved. He does not just give faith and hope the person will use it. No. He gives them the faith and the ability and desire to use it to effectively save them. This is how God saves sinners - by giving them everything they need to be reconciled with Him.

Faith is a Gift

- Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. - Acts 16:14
- Lydia had her heart opened by God. She could see the truth because God made it possible. This is reminiscent of Ezekiel 36:26 which says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." God takes out the hard dead heart and gives us a soft living heart. This is describing regeneration (see Eph. 2:1-5). He gives us a new heart. He calls us to life. He gives us repentance. And as we see, He also gives us faith. This is why we preach that salvation is by grace alone. It is all God's work and doing, from start (regeneration) to finish (glorification).

Faith is a Gift

- For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. - Philippians 1:29
- It has been granted to you to believe. It is a gift given. And this is not all He gives, but is certainly part of the package of salvation that we receive by His grace. He grants us faith.
- ...in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. - 2 Timothy 2:25-26
- Want to escape the snare of the devil? God must grant repentance and faith so that you can know the truth and be set free by Him. God must bring us to our senses. He must intervene otherwise we are doomed.

Faith is a Gift

John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." - John 3:27

Simple and to the point, John states that a man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. Ever hear a preacher preach that a person must receive Christ? Yes, we are invited to repent and believe on Him. How do we do that? God must give us what we need because we do not have it on our own. Humbling isn't it?

...as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. - John 17:2-3

Eternal life is knowing Christ. And He has the authority from the Father to give that life to as many as God gives to Him. God determines who is saved. And He gives Christ the authority then to save them. While we refer to salvation as a gift we also see that those who are saved are a gift, given by the Father to the Son.

Faith is a Gift

- I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. - 1 Cor. 3:6-7
- For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? - 1 Cor. 4:7
- And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. - 1 John 5:20

Faith Comes by Hearing

- We have been answering the question, "Where does faith come from?" We learned, faith does not come from men, that is to say, faith is not produced by, inherent in, or available to any person without outside intervention. So where does faith come from?
- Faith is given to us through the hearing of the Word of God.
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. - Romans 10:17

Faith is Spiritual Fruit

- But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...to another faith by the same Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:7, 9a
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. - Galatians 5:22-23
- The fruit of faithfulness literally translated is "faith, faithfulness, trust." So the fruit produced by the Spirit is more than being faithful, it is having faith. Being a person of faith is what makes us trustworthy.

Faith and Works

- For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.- James 2:26
- Faith is not a work, but saving faith works. If it is alive and active and real then faith will result in good works. Why is this? Because simply put, faith leads to behavior. If we believe something it shows in how we live.
- Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel **offered** to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he **obtained** witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch **was taken away** so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he **pleased God**. 6 But 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 diligently seek Him. 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, **moved with godly fear, prepared an ark** for the saving of his household, by which he **condemned the world** and **became heir of the righteousness** which is according to faith.

Faith and Works

- Heb. 11:8 By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith **he dwelt** in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for **he waited** for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself also **received strength** to conceive seed, and she **bore a child** when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Faith and Works

- Heb. 11:¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, **offered up Isaac**, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. ²⁰ By faith Isaac **blessed Jacob and Esau** concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, **blessed each of the sons of Joseph**, and **worshiped**, leaning on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, **made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones**. ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, **was hidden** three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.

Faith and Works

- Heb. 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, **refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter**, 25 **choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 **esteeming** the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he **looked to the reward**. 27 By faith he **forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he **endured** as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith **he kept the Passover** and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith **they passed** through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

Faith and Works

- ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Faith and Assurance

- These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. - 1 John 5:13
- Assurance carries with it the idea that we can reach a point in our Christian walk where we have confidence in the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls. We can be sure that we have been given eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Faith and Assurance

- These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. - 1 John 2:26-27
- Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. - 1 John 3:24
- These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. - Hebrews 11:13
- The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. - Romans 8:16-17

Faith and Assurance

- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. - 1 Pet. 1:6-9
- These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33
- You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. - 1 John 4:4
- For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. - 1 John 5:4

Conclusion

- Faith means belief, or trust. It refers to finding something or someone reliable. To have faith in someone is to trust them.
- “Faith is the substance of things hoped for.” The word substance means literally “existence” and refers to having the most solid possible conviction and absolute assurance of reality. This deep abiding trust makes our hope a tangible reality.
- Faith is the “evidence of things not seen.” Here the word evidence means “proof.” It is the proving of unseen things, an inner conviction about what is real and what is not.
- Saving faith is a gift that when exercised must have 1) Christ as its Object, 2) Works and Assurance as its Results, and 3) God’s Word as its Foundation.
- Conversion is the Spirit enabled conscious decision we make to repent of our sin and turn to Christ in faith, trusting Him for salvation and the forgiveness of sins.