



CLASS TWO: FAITH TOWARDS GOD

FAITH TOWARDS GOD

When a man repents from sin, it doesn't automatically save him. All he has done is to change his mind or his mental disposition toward sin. Without faith towards God, that man's actions will still be considered dead. So repentance from dead works and faith towards God go together. It can be said that "faith gives life to the works of a repented man".

What Is Faith?

Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead [**Hebrews 11:19**].

Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see. Faith is God simply laying hold of the unseen hope and bringing it into the realm of reality.

Faith is not available outside the word of God. Salvation is not possible without faith and as such, it is important to know that faith is a gift of God and the operation of God. After repentance from dead works, it is important we base our faith in God through His Word.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" [**Acts 4:12**].

There is no name under the heavens by which men can be saved. This faith is not the giving of mental assent to the truth in the word; it believes from the heart. This faith toward God is expressed by our confession and belief from the heart.

Believing in the finished work of Christ: For an unbeliever, he/she must turn around from his works. He/she needs to turn around with the intention of gaining a right standing with God. Believing that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected as a substitute for him/her is crucial as far as faith toward God is concerned.

"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" [**Romans 10:9–10**].

The life of faith finds its power and essence from the finished works of Christ. An unbeliever must therefore turn around from the dead works and begin to put his faith in God.

Faith to Live by:

For a believer, you must begin to live each day by faith alone. It is faith that pleases God. You must always check to see if what you do daily is out of faith or out of a motive of trying to have the right merit with God through your works. Believers must not just do things because others are doing them. They must always act out of faith. [**Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3**]



Our service to God must be done out of faith:

Then they asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.' [John 6:28–29].

We are working the works of God so far as we keep believing in Jesus Christ because faith towards God is a faith that works. True faith is believing in Jesus Christ.

"True faith is simply the recognition of the one in whom we believe. True faith is knowing Jesus: it is the ability to see Him in the power of His resurrection, as Abraham was able to do even before He came. Faith is not just believing in the words of the Lord but believing the word Himself" [Rick Joyner].

True faith is the ability to see eternity; this delivers us from the grip of the curse and worries of this world that is passing away. Faith towards God is not a one-day affair. It is for life. You must walk in faith every day as a believer. You don't outgrow faith. You must grow in and with faith. Faith is a lifestyle without which the life of the believer is a dead life and his works are dead works.

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

Seeing is not believing. This idea as propounded by the world is not consistent with scripture. It takes faith for us to see the manifestation of the invisible.

"Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." [John 20:24–29]

This is true faith; what we believe we shall see. Faith is the substance of hope and no man yet hopes for what he has seen.