

## “Do I Have Saving Faith?”

Dear Professing Believer,

Do you have *saving* faith?

The Bible tells us of some who believe without saving faith. The demons believe this way and tremble (James 2:19). Followers of Christ believed on Him in some way, although they were still children of the devil (John 8:31, 44). Paul asked the unsaved Agrippa, “Believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.” In spite of Agrippa’s kind of faith in the prophets, Paul failed to persuade him to become a Christian.

“Do I have saving faith?” is a question that the Bible teaches us to ask ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”).

Answering that question can be difficult, but I came across some instruction that I think can prove helpful if we are willing to prayerfully examine our hearts in the light of its truth. It is a selection from a Dutch work from the 18<sup>th</sup> century called *The Correct Faith* by Alexander Comrie. Here is how he describes *saving faith*:

“Although one may be convinced of his need of Christ as his Savior, yet so long as he does not see and know Him by faith as wonderfully adapted to his person in particular, the affections are not drawn to Him. From which it follows that many, in ordinary soul-trouble, act so undecidedly: today they desire Christ, and tomorrow they do not. This moment they wish to be converted, and the next they do not.

“This is the reason that many who once were touched by Christ’s fitness to their need, and therefore were seekers after Him for a season, go back again and no more ask for Him, simply because they do not think Him so much adapted to their need as to be able for His sake to bear the heat of the day and the cold of the night, or sacrifice all things, to possess Him. And this proves that they never have known His real fitness, that they never have seen it with the eye of faith; otherwise the seed of God would have remained in them.

“But when the divine light of the Holy Spirit, in the Gospel, illuminates my soul, and I receive this knowledge of faith from Jesus, oh! then I see in Him such fitness as a Surety, a Mediator, a Prophet, Priest, and King that my soul is touched in such a measure that I judge it impossible to live another happy hour, except this Jesus becomes my Jesus.

“My affections are inclined, taken up, directed, and settled upon this object, and my resolution is so great, so determined, so immovable, that if it required the loss of life and property, of father and mother, sister, brother, wife and child, right eye or right hand—yes, though I were condemned to die at the stake, I would lightly esteem all this, and would suffer it with joy, to have this wonderfully fit Savior to be my Savior and my Jesus.

“Oh! My friends, examine your hearts, for, from the very nature of the case, anything less than this will not suffice. If you possess this you will joyfully part with all your sins, you will bid an eternal and joyful adieu to your most cherished lusts and bosom passions; it will make you count all your righteousnesses, which you esteemed a gain, nothing but loss, rejecting them as unprofitable refuse, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ; it will make you take joyfully the spoiling of your goods; it will make you count it an honor, with the apostles, to be scourged for Christ’s sake; it will make you say: ‘Though I have not yet found Him, and am only seeking after Him, whom my soul loveth, and although I dare not say, My Beloved is mine and I am His, yet if I were to labor for Him twice seven years, and spend them in groaning and weeping, in tears and supplications, I would count them but as so many days, if only at last I might find Him to be my own’.

“God Himself must fix your mind upon these things; these results are the infallible signs of the inward root of the matter.”

“But this divine light teaches me that Christ can save to the uttermost; that though my sins are as scarlet and crimson, heavier than the mountains, greater in number than the hairs of my head and the sands of the seashore, there is such abundance of satisfaction and merits in the satisfaction, by virtue of His Person, that, though I had the sins of the human race, they would be, compared to the satisfaction of Christ, which has by virtue of His Person an infinite value, as a drop to a bucket and as a small dust in the balance.

“And this convinces my soul that my sin, instead of being an obstacle, much rather adds to the glory of the redemption, that sovereign grace was pleased to make me an everlasting monument of infinite compassion.

“Formerly, I always confessed my sin reluctantly; it was wrung from my lips against my will only because I was driven to it by my anguish, for I always thought, The more I confess my sin, the farther I will be from salvation and the nearer my approach to eternal condemnation; and, fool that I was, I disguised my guilt.

“But, since I know that Jesus is so all-sufficient, now I cry out, much more with my heart than with my lips, ‘Though I were a blasphemer and a persecutor and all that is wicked, this is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.’

“And, if need be, I am ready to sign this with my blood, to the glory of sovereign grace. In this way every believer, if he stands in this attitude, will feel inclined to testify with me.”

“My beloved, faith embraces not only the words and letters of the Gospel, but Christ Himself in them. Faith converses, not with the letter alone, but with Christ in the letter. Faith has two foundations, the Word and the Substance. It does not build upon the Word alone, which is the letter of the Gospel; but also upon the Substance in the Word, viz., Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).”

So again, do you have saving faith? If so, walk by faith. If not, ask the Lord for it before it is too late.

In Him,

Pastor

“If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema. Maranatha” (1 Cor. 16:22).