

SESSION 7: What Makes Faith Valid?

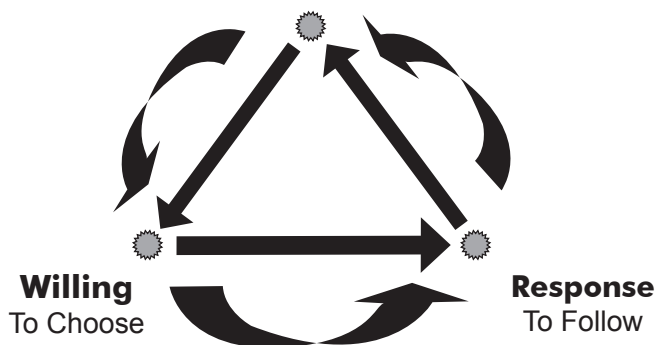
Discovering the Teaching of the Bible on this Often-Misunderstood Subject

Reference: *Surprised by Faith*, pages 82-100 (fourth edition); pages 81-94 (third edition)

Making the Discovery

1. Many people in society have a _____ of the nature and meaning of Christian faith.
2. “Faith” is the translation of the Greek _____ form and “believe” is the translation of the Greek _____ form of the same biblical concept. The words may be substituted for each other in most passages—such as John 3:16—without changing the essential meaning of “trust.”
3. The Bible identifies _____ as one of the essential components of personal faith.
 - a. According to Romans 10:13-15, people cannot believe in Jesus if they have never _____ of Him.
 - b. That is because biblical faith must have an _____.
 - c. The object of Christian faith is _____.
 - d. The _____ of your Christian faith is not dependent on how you feel (e.g. always sincere) or whether you have doubts, but on the genuineness of whom you are trusting, i.e. Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17).
 - e. _____ unbelievers about Jesus is something we must do if we expect them to know about and have faith in Him.
4. The Bible identifies the _____ as a second essential component of personal faith.
 - a. A hardened _____ (i.e. will) can keep us from personal faith (Hebrews 4:7).
 - b. Each person must _____ to follow Jesus to have Christian faith.
5. The Bible identifies our _____ as a third essential component of personal faith.
 - a. The parable of the two sons (Matthew 21:28-32) demonstrates the importance of being _____.
 - b. Jesus said, “... _____ ” (meaning to make a commitment to obey His teaching), to everyone who wanted to be His disciple (Matthew 16:24).

Knowledge — Of Jesus Christ



DISCOVERY #7

“Ah-ha!” Christian faith is valid because its object, Jesus Christ, is certain!

Confirming the Discovery from God’s Word

In summary of God’s Word, we discovered that faith must have an object and that object is Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17). People who are either ignorant of that fact or have hardened their hearts to that truth are separated from God (Ephesians 4:18) for Jesus is the only One who can bring God and people together (1 Timothy 2:5). God made His salvation perfectly clear through the Lord’s own words which were confirmed by His eyewitness disciples. But even more convincing was God’s authentication through miracles and through spiritual gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 2:3-4). As a result of Jesus’ sacrificial death and resurrection, He has been exalted to the highest authority in the universe and all humanity will ultimately acknowledge and confess His Lordship (Philippians 2:9-11). Until then, those believe are to be witnesses, proclaiming that in Jesus’ name there is forgiveness of sin (Luke 24:46-48).

Answers to “Fill in the Blanks”: 1. misunderstanding; 2. noun, verb; 3. knowledge, heard, object, Jesus Christ, validity, Telling; 4. will, heart, choose; 5. response, obedient, follow me