

Coming to Faith

How does it really happen and what role do I play?

Context

4 Purposes to Life

1. Come to Faith
2. Grow in Faith
3. Live the Faith
4. Share the Faith



What is Faith?

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Justification

God's declaration that people are not guilty because Jesus has paid for their sins.

Objective justification and subjective justification are like two sides of a coin, inseparable though subject to study individually:

Objective Justification: God declared all people "not guilty" because Jesus has atoned for the sins of all (1 John 2:2). God reconciled the world to himself by attributing sin to Christ and Christ's righteousness to sinners (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

Subjective Justification: This righteousness-for-sin exchange becomes personal salvation alone by faith in Jesus Christ, that Christ's redemptive work is personally appropriated and God's justifying decree personally received by faith (John 3:16; Mark 16:16; Romans 1:17; Hebrews 4:2).

Sanctification

The work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace.

In the wider sense: To call someone out of the unbelieving world to be holy by bringing that person to faith in Christ, enlightening him, and keeping him in the faith.

In the narrow sense: To lead a believer to hate sin and be eager to live a holy life filled with good works.

Notions about Faith

US

GOD

We do it all:

LOST

SAVED

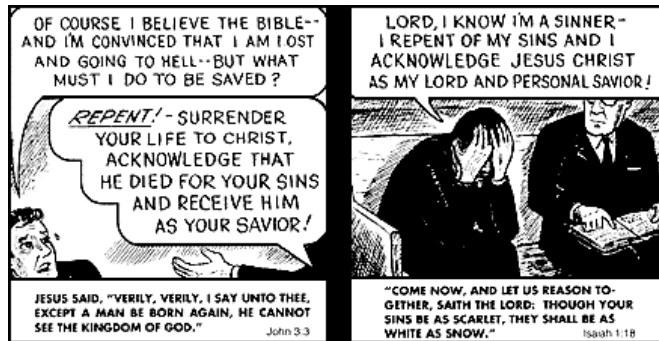
There are Gurus on every corner gathering followers. But I am not a Guru and I am not gathering followers. I do not even ask people to believe me, little lone be devoted to me. I only ask that they Openly and Honestly consider that which I offer as a tool or Pointer to aid them in their own Awakening. For I can not Save you, you must Save yourself. All I can do is Point to the Path and Help and Serve you in your Journey on that Path. The Path of Awakening. Beyond that, a mere Servant, I am nothing at all. (www.light-mission.org)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12)

We participate with God & meet somewhere in the middle:

LOST

SAVED



Believer's Prayer

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life to you and ask you to come in as my Savior and Lord. Take control of my life. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.

Billy Graham website:

Only God could know the important role this dairy farmer's son would play in world evangelism. From the humble beginnings on a farm to his decision for Christ at a local revival on the edge of Charlotte, North Carolina, to his travels around the world speaking in stadiums filled to capacity, Billy Graham has pursued a singular vision—to share the love of Jesus Christ with all who would listen.

Excerpted from "A Right View of Repentance" by In Touch Ministries (Charles Stanley)

When Peter preached the truth about Jesus Christ in Acts chapter two, he left thousands of listeners wondering what they should do next.

The apostle's response in verse 38 is simple. He says, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." As a result, 3,000 people were added to their numbers that day.

Is this the message of most churches today? Does it seem strange that Peter said "repent" instead of "believe"? Actually, Scripture often uses these concepts together. Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin. Both are essential for salvation and each is dependent upon the other.

But, in terms of salvation, you can't separate faith and repentance. To be saved, you must place faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. That decision requires a change of mind, or repentance, about your way of life. Both happen at the same time.

Yet, many people mistakenly believe they must repent before they can make a faith decision for Jesus. Repentance doesn't mean we must completely change our ways and "clean ourselves up" so we can then receive Christ as Lord. There should actually be no delay or separation between repentance and faith.

If you're holding off on a decision for Christ until you think you're "ready" or "worthy," then you're waiting in vain. Jesus is ready to receive you right now. Only as a child of God will you find the power - His power - to truly become the person He created you to be.

God does it all:

LOST

SAVED



God's Desire:

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

God's Method:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

...Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5-8)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:12-19)

Our Role:

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:25-26)

It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. (Romans 9:16)

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

Discuss

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)