

# TRUE FAITH

**“Faith without works is dead.”**



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by Steve Ritchie

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Romans 10:8-11,13

". . . The word is near you, even in your mouth, and in your heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach; That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture says, Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed. . . For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:16

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel, For Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed our report?"

Belief and Obedience are inseparably linked together. Biblical Faith implies not only trust and belief, but also action.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name done many wonderful works?"

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:24

"Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does

them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: . . ."

1 Thess. 1:7,8

". . .the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL??? TRUE FAITH WILL LEAD TO TRUE OBEDIENCE!**

Romans 6:17,18

"But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness."

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?** 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 provides us with a clear and concise definition:

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and wherein you stand; By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: "

**HOW DO WE OBEY THE GOSPEL? THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION?**

READ Romans 6:1-7/Colossians 2:8-12

ACTS 2:38

An ancient proverb "Delayed obedience is disobedience."  
Thomas Fuller wrote: "Obedience is much more seen in little

things than in great."

GOD DOES NOT ASK US TO DO GREAT THINGS TO OBEY THE GOSPEL. HE COMMANDS SIMPLE THINGS: CORNELIUS AND PAUL believed, repented, were baptized, and received the Holy Spirit.

James 2:14

"What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?"

James 2:19-24

"You believe that there is one God; you do well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the alter? . . .

And the scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. You see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

James 2:26

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Years ago I read of an old Scottish story in which a man inscribed on the two oars of his row boat, "Faith", and "Works." A curious passenger asked the old Scotchman, Why do you have the words Faith and Works inscribed on your oars? The wise Scotchman commenced to row with only the oar with the word "faith" inscribed. And the row boat proceeded to go in a circle. Then the Scotchman proceeded to row with only the oar with the word, "works" inscribed. Again the row boat went in a circle in the other direction. The wise old Scotchman then replied. "Faith if it has not works will get you nowhere. Then again, works

without faith is just as useless. But only faith and works, put together brings results.

Illustration of the two batches of cookies:

Have you ever tried to make a particular recipe but did not fully carry out the instructions correctly? The Food might have looked the same, but it sure did not taste the same.

A young girl once decided to surprise her mother with fresh baked cookies. She followed the recipe in the cook book but she did not measure the salt correctly. Her incorrect estimation was about five teaspoons of salt rather than one teaspoon. As a result the cookies looked great, but no one would eat them.

Illustration of the Wood Duck:

The Wood Duck makes her nest in old hollowed out trees about forty feet high. The mother begins talking to her baby duckling while still unhatched within the eggs. 24 hours after hatching, the parents call the baby ducklings from the ground forty feet beneath. They call for their babies to jump. For a human being, this leap is the equivalent of jumping from an eight story building. The ducklings who are not obedient to their parents will all die from predators. Only the obedient ducklings who take the plunge will live.

All those who become God's True Children Must Take the leap of obedience. The ducklings who have faith in their Mother take the leap to safety. But the ducklings who refuse to take the leap of faith, all die. Beloved, why not take the leap of faith today. For today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow might be too late.