

## BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD GAVE US FAITH (I)!

### FAITH BEGINS WITH KNOWLEDGE.

Knowledge is often said to be the very opposite of faith. Yet there is a knowledge that is indispensable to faith. To have faith means to believe. But believe what? Can you believe what you do not know? Can you trust one whom you are ignorant of?



We cannot trust one whom we know nothing of, especially if the matter is of grave importance. And salvation is of grave importance! Therefore **FAITH** begins with knowledge -- knowing truths. The apostle Paul asks a list of questions in **Romans 10:14-17** and here they are: *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And Paul's answer to all these questions is: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

We must know who Christ is -- *that He is the Son of God who took on human nature, that He is the Lamb of God who was offered up as a sacrifice for sins, that He is the Prophet to teach us the way to God, that He is the Priest to represent us before God, that He is the King to rule us and protect us.* We must know what Christ has done --- *that He has lived a perfect life, a life without sin, a life that keeps and fulfils all of God's commandments, that He has died a substitutionary death (He did not die for his own sins but He die for the sins of others).* And we must know that He is willing to save, that He is able to save, and that He ever lives to save.

You may only know very little. You may not be able to completely understand everything. Your knowledge and understanding of the truth can be, and may be very, very, very small, at times. But it must be there!

### FAITH CONTINUES INTO CONVICTION

**Hebrews 11:1** says, " *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen* and **Hebrews 11 : 13** states " *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured (persuaded) of them, embraced them .....*



Faith is believing the truth to be truth, the facts to be facts, to be convinced of the truth, to be convicted by the truth and to to be fully persuaded that the truth is *really* true! Faith says " *Convicted that I am a sinner, a hell-deserving sinner, convinced that Jesus is the Saviour, and that He and He alone can save me from my sins and persuaded that I need Him!!!*"

This is aptly expressed in the hymn *Rock of Ages*:

*Not the labour of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and Thou alone.*

Faith is not just knowing the truth about Jesus Christ, but also being convicted, being convinced, being fully persuaded that it is true. Faith is the conviction of the truth. Have you and are you convicted?

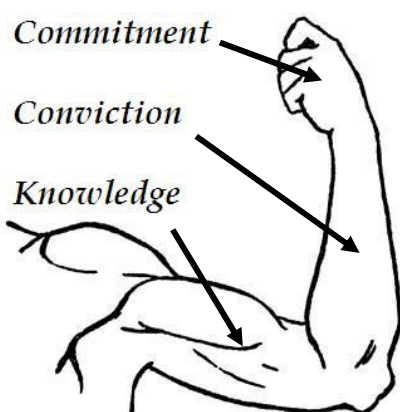
**FAITH ENDS IN COMMITMENT.**

The conviction must pass into confidence, into commitment to Christ. *For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. (2 Timothy 1:12)*



To believe is sometimes described in Scripture as to receive. At other times, it is described as a coming to Christ, or a eating and drinking of Christ. In other words, **FAITH** is (and must be) more than just a conviction of the truth. You may be convinced that you are a sinner. You may be convinced that Jesus Christ alone can save you. But that is not enough. You must commit yourself to Him!

Faith is trusting someone, the entrusting of ourselves to Him. Instead of relying on yourself or any other human resources, you transfer your reliance upon Christ alone for salvation. Is there this commitment to Christ? Have you committed yourself, your all to Him?



Commitment is a test of conviction. A conviction that does not lead to and end in commitment is not true faith. Conviction is also a test of commitment. There can be no true commitment to Christ without being convinced of who He is. You can't remain committed to what you are not fully convinced.

This is **FAITH** -- the empty hand that takes Christ and the hand that lays hold of Christ has these **three** parts: *Knowledge, conviction, commitment.*

**WEI En Yi**