

What Kind of Faith is Saving Faith?

(Saving Faith Series - #1)

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There is no doubt. We are saved by faith!

Genesis 15:6

Abraham believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

John 3:36

Whoever puts his faith in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see that life, for God's wrath remains on him.

Acts 16:30,31

He (the jailer) asked, "Men, what must I do to be saved?"
(Paul & Silas) replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

Defining our "faith" vocabulary

Kind #1: (ASSENT)

English – Believe Greek – believe that – *pisteuo hoti*
To believe that a fact is true
– a judgment of the mind regarding truth

Heb. 11:6 – We must believe that God exists.

John 20:31 – John wrote so we might believe that Jesus is the Christ.

Kind #2: (TRUST)

English – Believe Greek – believe in – *pisteuo eis*
Greek – believe on – *pisteuo epi*
To believe in something or someone, most often a person
– a decision of the will to act upon the truth assented to.

John 3:16 – Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish.

1 Tim. 1:16 – Those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.

Vocabulary Test:

Examples of Kind #1 – Assent

Examples of Kind #2 – Trust

What is saving faith?

NOT "kind #1" only

(from a Christian website: "If you read the Sinners Prayer and truly believe the words you read, then **Praise the Lord** as you have been saved and your name will appear in the "Lambs Book of Life!")

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God? Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.

2:24 ...a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

NOT "kind #1" plus works

(I believe in Jesus and I'm a good person.)

Ephesians 2:8,9 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.

NOT "kind #1" plus obedience

(I believe in Jesus and I... go to church, give, was baptized, etc.)

Romans 3:21,22 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known... This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

"Kind #1" (assent) is a prerequisite of saving faith.

You must believe that He is the Son of God & that He died for your sins.

Saving Faith IS "kind #2" (trust)

John 3:36 - Whoever puts his faith in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see that life, for God's wrath remains on him.

If you put your faith in Jesus, you will:

Believe in His claim – "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
Believe in His authority – "All authority has been given to me."
Obey, because obedience is the result of saving faith.

If you put your faith in Jesus, you will:

Do whatever He commands
Do whatever He asks
Follow Him wherever He leads

"The faith that saves is the faith that obeys"