

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON 19: DELIGHTING IN SAVING FAITH

#### Intro:

BIG IDEA: \_\_\_\_\_ glorifies God by enjoying Christ & His work as \_\_\_\_\_.

#### WSC Q 86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

**A:** Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

1. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

- Faith is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God because unregenerate people are \_\_\_\_\_ unable to believe.
- We are \_\_\_\_\_ to believe by the work of the Spirit in our \_\_\_\_\_.
- This refutes \_\_\_\_\_ or Semi-Pelagianism (we are able to believe).
- \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Pelagius: “Oh Lord, grant what you command; command whatever you will.”
- God’s commands are reflections of His \_\_\_\_\_ & our \_\_\_\_\_, not our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ means of our salvation. No faith → no salvation.
- Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ wrought (archaic past tense of \_\_\_\_\_) by the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ produces faith in people through the Word \_\_\_\_\_ & illuminated.
- Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ thru the ministry of the Word, the sacraments & prayer.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. **1 Corinthians 2**

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith . And this (neuter) is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ... **Ephesians 2**

<sup>17</sup>So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. **Romans 10**

“Faith and repentance are not flowers that grow on the dung heap of human depravity.” **Roger Nicole**

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“We can also decide to follow the Jesus we believe in, but we can’t decide to believe any more than we can decide to love somebody affectionately whom we don’t love.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>179</sup>

“If a Savior was necessary to the recovery of lost sinners, faith in that Savior is no less necessary to the actual enjoyment of salvation.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>180</sup>

“SAVING FAITH ... is that *spiritual discernment of the excellence and beauty of divine truth, and that cordial embrace and acceptance of it, which are wrought in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.*” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>181</sup>

“Unbelief is always denounced as a sin, and not as the consequence of intellectual weakness.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>182</sup>

**WSC Q 88: What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?**

**A:** The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

**WSC Q 89: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?**

**A:** The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

WLC Q. 154: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?

**A:** The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.

WLC Q. 155: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

**A:** The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; driving them out of themselves, and drawing them to Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

- The focus is on how Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the benefits of His work as Mediator.
- Ordinary means sounds so ordinary and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Coming to saving faith in Christ & growing in our faith takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many may hear the Word, receive sacraments and even pray w/out being \_\_\_\_\_.
- But for the \_\_\_\_\_ they are \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation.
- Focus on the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_ which accompanies sacraments & prayer.
- By \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sinners.

<sup>179</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 116.

<sup>180</sup> Shaw, pp. 146.

<sup>181</sup> Hodge, pp. 203.

<sup>182</sup> Hodge, pp. 204.

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- Sinners need to see they are \_\_\_\_\_.
- The ministry of the Word first makes sinners ready to \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.
- The ministry of the Word then drives us \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
- Justified & adopted in Christ it is the means of our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
- This is \_\_\_\_\_ us to Christ's image, helping us \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.
- Strengthens us against the \_\_\_\_\_ we experience & \_\_\_\_\_.
- Apart from the Word there is ordinarily no \_\_\_\_\_, justification & sanctification.

<sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ... <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 4**

<sup>14</sup>One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. **Acts 16**

"God never works needless miracles; if His purposes can be accomplished by ordinary means, He will not use miraculous agency." **Charles Spurgeon**

"Whatever tends to promote sanctification must promote the strength of faith, which is its main root. Therefore, faith must be nourished by the truth, prayer, the sacraments, and every means of grace." **A.A. Hodge**<sup>183</sup>

2. By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God himself speaking therein; and acts differently upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

- Faith changes how we look at the Word of God both \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faith believes the Word to be \_\_\_\_\_, generally & particularly in what it \_\_\_\_\_.
- This means that our source of authority shifts from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ are subdued to Christ thru the Scriptures so we grow in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faith takes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture \_\_\_\_\_; no carnal security.
- Faith \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for both present & eternal life.
- Principle acts of faith: accepting, receiving & \_\_\_\_\_ upon \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
- **Faith:** Content → Assent → Trust    Content & Assent are necessary but \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>183</sup> Hodge, pp. 204.

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- Counterfeit faith ultimately lacks \_\_\_\_\_ but may also be corrupted in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faith grows as increased content & \_\_\_\_\_ result in greater \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
- We see faith rests upon \_\_\_\_\_ not only for justification but also sanctification.
- Faith is not resting on the \_\_\_\_\_ mercy of God, but the mercy of God in Christ.
- Faith is effective for salvation due to the terms of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. . . .  
<sup>26</sup>For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. **James 2**

- Any kind of faith that does not result in \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Any faith that remains all \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to save you.
- Abraham’s faith was \_\_\_\_\_ by the obedience it produced (vv. 18ff).

“The faith that justifies is a living and active principle, which works by love, purifies the heart, and excites to universal obedience.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>184</sup>

“We can believe everything that is revealed in Scripture because the authority of God stands behind it. The fundamental issue that led to the fall of the human race was the trustworthiness of God.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>185</sup>

“Divine faith is an assent to divine truth upon divine testimony.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>186</sup>

“He trusts in Christ for salvation not only from wrath, but also from sin- not only for salvation from the guilt of sin, but also from its pollution and power- not only for happiness hereafter, but also for holiness here.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>187</sup>

3. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

- Saving faith is not about a \_\_\_\_\_ amount of faith, nor a uniformity of faith.
- Faith differs in \_\_\_\_\_ between Christians, and over \_\_\_\_\_.
- We experience times of \_\_\_\_\_ faith & \_\_\_\_\_ faith depending on circumstances & \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>184</sup> Shaw, pp. 133.

<sup>185</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 124.

<sup>186</sup> Shaw, pp. 148.

<sup>187</sup> Shaw, pp. 150-151.

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- Our faith is often \_\_\_\_\_; we can \_\_\_\_\_ our faith or be \_\_\_\_\_ by sin.
- Saving faith, though \_\_\_\_\_ in strength, still perseveres & gains the victory.
- It continues to rest upon Christ who \_\_\_\_\_ over sin & shame for us.
- As faith in Christ grows, many experience \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.
- Since faith is a gift, we expect Christ to perfect our \_\_\_\_\_, or bring it to maturity.
- As we mature spiritually, faith has fewer \_\_\_\_\_ & we are steadier in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Our justification can’t be augmented or diminished by anything we do because the only basis for it is Christ’s righteousness. . . . Our growth in sanctification is directly related to our growth in faith, because our growth in faith is closely related to our faithfulness. The more faithfulness we are, the more sanctified we become. We must work hard to strengthen our faith.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>188</sup>  
“However, the faith by which we lay hold of Christ is a varying faith. Our trust in him does admit to augmentation and diminution.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>189</sup>  
“Faith is certain that God is true in all things . . .” **John Calvin**<sup>190</sup>

How does this help you to glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion:

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<sup>188</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 119.

<sup>189</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 125.

<sup>190</sup> Calvin, (III, II, 29) pp. 575.