

May 1994 Boston, MA
Faith versus Principle

Christians greatest boast is that they are saved by faith alone, but faith without works is dead.

That is the only purpose for faith — to produce obedience to the word of God (Gal 3:2,23; Gal 3:5,7,8,9,11,12,14). Gal 3:23 — The law was our tutor before faith came. Came means to arrive in due course; to reach a condition; to advance towards accomplishment, Rom 10:17. Rom 10:16 is very clear about this. The reason we are saved by faith alone is because true faith is the power to obey the word. That is, to trust Messiah to the point of obeying His word. This means doing what He commands — 1 John 2:4 — doing what He says for us to do, John 14:15,21.

The new covenant is based on faith in Messiah and what He did for Israel, Jer 31:31-34. But if one does not receive faith, as Rom 10 says, one cannot come into the new covenant relationship with Messiah who inaugurates the new covenant with Israel. For the most important aspect of the new covenant is the new heart that is generated by faith in the Son of God!

The Spirit is given as a result of this. The promise was that God's law will be written on the hearts of the people who received faith to obey the Son (Jer 31:31-34). Sins cannot be removed except by faith in the Son who shed His blood for us to forgive us our sins. Rom 10:9 requires faith, as verse 17 says. Verse 16 requires faith as verse 17 says.

Obedience is generated by faith. That is, faith causes obedience to the Son of God. The only purpose for faith is obedience. Faith is useless without obedience. The only purpose for the gift of faith, the very reason it is given to us for, is for the purpose of pleasing Him by obeying His word. Obedience without faith is sin, Rom 14:23; Heb 11:6 — An act of sin.

Living by fear — coercion or threat — or even by principle (just obey and behave), without faith, is sin. (Rom 1:17) It is no better than being under the law, Rom 6:14. That is, obeying Rom 6:13 without faith or the Spirit giving you the confidence and strength to do it as Mark 8:35 says. In order to live by faith on a daily basis, Luke 9:23, to pick up your cross to live as Acts 4:32-35. This is what it means to live by faith and to put your mind on the Spirit, Rom 8:6.

Rom 1:17 — presupposes Rom 1:16, that you have heard the good news as

Rom 10:17 says, and that you have obeyed the good news as Rom 10:16 and Rom 10:9,10, speak of. It presupposes that you have heard as Rom 10:14-17, and been baptized into the Body — in a place as 1 Tim 2:8 and 1 Cor 1:2 says. The gospel must be obeyed by faith or one is not saved (Rom 10:16; Acts 5:30-32).

Faith is required to live in the Body. Faith means John 5:24 — hearing His word. Faith is believing what God has revealed to you by the hearing of it — which was spoken to you so that you can obey Him in order to be saved. (Acts 22:16; John 3:36) To believe into John 3:15,18 takes one out of himself and puts him into Messiah.

Rom 5:1 — The doctrine of justification by faith — We are justified by the faith of Yahshua, Gal 2:16. Faith says we can do nothing to justify ourselves from our sins. To prove one's faith in Him a person will obey anything He says to do. Faith comes by hearing, the faith to obey Him comes by hearing or revelation.

Faith was the means by which Satan would finally be executed. Gen 15:6 shows Abraham as a man of faith. Gal 3:29 — Yahweh's faith is demonstrated in Gen 15 to chose Abraham through his seed, to bring about His promise to him, Gal 3:16. Now, He is the object of our faith, and all who have faith are Abraham's seed also (in Messiah).

Rom 4:16 — The promise in Gen 15:18 would be accomplished by faith. Abraham's faith in our God's word to him to give him an offspring who would bring about the promise. Gen 18:19 — Abraham's seed after him. So to sacrifice his own seed through which the promise would be given took the utmost faith in the promise given to him, Gen 22:18. Faith then is obeying God's voice, Rom 10:17.

Faith comes by hearing (the word of Messiah in Paul) God's voice. This forever seals you with His Spirit, Eph 1:13 (2 Cor 4:2-4).

Gen 22:16 — Faith is obeying God, and He responded to Abraham, "because you have done this thing...I will greatly bless you." (verses 17,18) 1 Pet 1:8,9; James 2:24, James 2:21. Faith which

comes to a person is received by hearing God's voice, Rom 10:17. Faith is the conviction which enables him to obey Him. (Heb 11:1,27; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Pet 1:8; Gal 3:26; 1 Pet 1:5-9)

Our soul's salvation depends upon the faith we have received in Him — the faith that comes to us which we now have. (1 Pet 1:9) James 1:21 (verse 18 — we have born by the word of truth) — receiving the word which is able to save your soul; implanted as a graft. Rom 1:17 — It is received before our baptism and sealed in us at our baptism when we first heard the good news, Rom 1:16; Rom 10:17; Rom 10:8-10

Gen 18:19 — This is to his seed after him, all who have faith in Messiah, Gal 3:16, will be as 1 Pet 1:8. 1 Pet 1:3 is our Source of love for Him — Him who according to His great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope to obtain an inheritance reserved in heaven — out of touch from everything — "Caused" by faith in the word. It means generated, John 10:14,17; 6:44. Gold is perishable but faith is not. By faith He gave us, the faith that He caused us to have in order to be born again to a living hope. We confessed His name. Rom 10:9; Ps 116:1; James 1:18; Eph 1:13 — He brought us forth by hearing the word.

Peter writes to those who had never seen Him, but because they had heard His voice, they loved Him. Gen 22:18 — They had the same faith Abraham had by hearing His voice. This causes us to love Him, 1 Pet 1:8,9, and obtains as an outcome the salvation of our souls. Our souls — our very essence and our being, is what is saved.

Faith is the revelation we had when He spoke to our heart and we trusted Him to save us, 1 Pet 1:21-23. Our souls are purified and we can love one another from the heart. If we are living by principal and not by faith we will not be able to forbear with one others, Eph 4:2-6.

Rom 1:17 — Only if we live by faith can we endure to the end, Matt 24:13. Christians live by principal. Disciples live by faith and there is no pretending. Faith is hearing the word of in your heart and obeying as Abraham did, Gen 22:18. (1 Pet 1:25; Rom 10:8 — Preaching indicates hearing which causes faith to come.) Rev 3:20 saves us from principle as the church He just rebuked lived by, even though they thought they were fine and dandy. Rev 3:22 speaks of

hearing the Spirit, not doctrines and principles (Rom 1:17). James 1:18 — We heard the word of truth and the hope of the gospel — Col 1:23. (James 1:18; John 8:56; Heb 11:13)

You don't hear principles. John 16:1-3 — They think they are doing God a service. They are not hearing or don't live by faith, but principle, like the fact of Messiah being crucified. Faith produces obedience. Obedience is the product of faith. Without faith it is impossible to produce obedience from the flesh which is only sin anyway. Rom 1:17 — The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.

Principle — To live by principle is to not live by faith. Principle is an artificial device that is depended upon instead of God. Living by principle is like substituting conscience for faith (Gen 3:16-19). This makes one live in an artificial way, without agape love. Yet this kind of love is imitated by the principle of love put into practice. The Bible is for them only a rule or code of conduct.

Rev 3:16 — A principled person is neither hot nor cold but lukewarm. They keep themselves in line. Verse 17 — They are self-deceived. Verse 18 — They are without faith as 1 Pet 1:7 — they have no proof of faith. Going through it is never experienced by principled people. (1 Pet 1:7)

Methodical people are characterized by or perform with method or order (John 3:8), contrary to those having the Spirit. Methodical people proceed according to method or systematic procedure for attaining to the resurrection.

Phil 3:10 — Try it methodically. Such people are never hot or cold but always lukewarm. James Howell is an example. Know any one else like him who is neither hot nor cold? But if we live by faith we will be hot, 1 Pet 4:8.

A methodical, principled person who has never heard the voice of God like Abraham did in Gen 22:18 and John 8:39, keeps a steady course of "life" by not seeking God for faith. 1 Chr 28:9 is far from him. He does not need to seek for Him, John 3:8. The faith of Abraham is not known by the pretender. Synthetic faith lets you down, Matt 24:10-12, Gen 18:19, in the last hour. Faith — Heb 3:12-4:3; Matt 16:16-18. Faith is not revealed to flesh and blood but principle understands knowledge.

Rev 3:19 — This principled church leavened to doctrinal understanding. This zealous repentance is a principle in the Edah, which if not leavened to doctrinal understanding, could still have refuted the Gnostic doctrine. They thought they had attained to great wealth in the Spirit and need of nothing. 1 Chr 28:9,10 had almost come upon them. But verses 20,21 — They still had hope if they would hear His voice as Abraham did in Gen 22:18 and then overcome by that hearing continually, Rom 1:17. This is the repentance of Rev 3:19.

Rev 3:22 — The Spirit only speaks to the Churches in their places, as 1 Tim 2:8, 1 Cor 1:2 and Mal 1:11 speak of. Matt 16:18 — The church that the gates of death cannot overtake like this one in Rev 3:14. Rev 3:15 says, "I know your works." We must be able to judge ourselves as He sees us, 1 Cor 11:27-31, or we will be judged like the Laodiceans. We must see ourselves as He sees us and repent if we are living by principle and not by faith, Rev 3:20.

If anyone hears My voice — the if means on condition that. . . , or in the event that, means a condition or stipulation; as in the condition of Col 1:23 (of not being moved away from the hope of the gospel), If anyone hears My voice I will come to Him and will fellowship with him, 1 Cor 1:9. And he who overcomes in this way — Heb 4:15,16 — of living by faith and not by principle, to the end, Matt 24:13, will be saved for My kingdom. Rev 3:21 — So let us repent, verse 19 — so that from now on we will be ready to enter the land at the year of Jubilee, verse 22.

Principled people want recognition for what comes from them. Disciples who live by faith want only to glorify Him whose faith it is they live by, 1 Pet 4:11. They live by His strength according to the faith they have been given, Rom 12:3-10. Titus 2:14 — Those who are purified are zealous for good works to glorify our Master. Principled souls are zealous for good works to glorify themselves. Principled people grumble inwardly while maintaining their posture outwardly, 1 Pet 4:9, with plastic smiles. (1 Pet 4:10)

1 Pet 1:22 — is virtually impossible. Virtually means entirely impossible because love in their hearts is almost or virtually suppressed due to selfish ambition, Phil 2:3.