The Origin Of Faith

Intro: 2 Cor. 5:7 “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” Although this scripture refers specifically to things spiritual, it is, never-the-less, true also of the material realm.

1. Faith is simply belief, trust, or confidence.
2. Heb. 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
3. It is seen in every phase of life.
   a. Children in parents.
   b. Children in teachers.
   c. In the business realm, such as farmers and merchants.
4. Thus, faith from the spiritual standpoint is not foreign to man’s thinking.

I. MANY SCRIPTURES TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH.

A. No act is acceptable to God unless motivated by faith.
   1. Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
   2. Rom. 14:23 “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

B. Faith saves and justifies.
   1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   2. John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not [ASV—obeyeth not] the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
   3. Acts 16:30-31 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
   4. Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

II. THE ORIGIN OF FAITH.

A. There is much controversy as to the origin of faith.
   1. Some say it is the gift of God.
      a. Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
      b. This refers to salvation being the gift of God and not faith.
   2. Some say by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
      a. Not one scripture teaches this.
      b. All would be saved, universal salvation, or God would be a respecter of persons.
         (1) Rom. 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”
         (2) Acts 10:34 “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”
   3. Some say in answer to prayer.
      a. Jam. 1:6 “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”
      b. Pro. 28:9 “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”
      c. John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”
      d. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
e. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

B. How then does faith come? By hearing or reading the Word of God.

1. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

2. Luke 8:12 “Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

3. Acts 15:7 “And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.”

4. Acts 17:11-12 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”

5. Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

6. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

III. Illustrations Of This Principle.

A. Heb. 11:7 “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

B. Heb. 11:8 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

C. Heb. 11:17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”

D. Heb. 11:30 “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”

E. Naaman, 2 Kin. 5

F. In all these examples we see:

1. The Word of God came to these individuals
2. They obeyed the Word
3. They were spoken of as faithful
4. Gal. 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Conclusion: The Word of God has come to us. Have we obeyed it? Are we children of God by faith?