

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Faith Alone?

Jerry Fite

When people, trying to convert others to Christ, sincerely say, “*our salvation is in Christ alone;*” we can agree, because of what we can read in the Scriptures. Jesus declared before His death, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: and no one cometh unto the Father but by me*” (John 14:6). After Jesus’ resurrection, the Spirit-filled apostle Peter declared, “*And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

When the same sincere people continue to say “*It is by faith alone that we are saved in Christ;*” what measure of faith is essential to being initially saved?

Many of the Jewish rulers “believed” on Jesus while others did not believe on Jesus though He did many miracles. Were the rulers saved? They literally “only believed,” because the Scripture adds, “*...but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue*” (John 12:42). They did not confess, or speak with God as to where the miraculous signs were leading them, because they “*loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God*” (John 12:43).

Was their believing on Jesus not enough faith to save them because they did not have enough of something else? We know they did not have the “love for the glory of God,” for it was surpassed by the “love of the glory of men.” They valued more the power of the Pharisees to cast out people more than the power of God to save. Nevertheless, they only believed, but remained in a lost condition.

The Jews were unwilling to “*confess Him*” openly, meaning they believed on Jesus as a miracle worker, but not what the miracles signified, that Jesus was being confirmed as the Son of God. Must one “confess” Jesus to be the Son of God and Lord in order to be saved?

The Scriptures say so. The Spirit inspired apostle Paul declares, “*...If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shall believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead thou shall be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Romans 10:9-10).

Yes, faith is essential to salvation, But what are we to believe? According to Romans 10:9, we are to believe that God

raised Jesus from the dead. But are we saved by “faith alone”? One must also confess the meaning of this belief of the resurrection openly with one’s mouth. The resurrection powerfully “declared” Jesus is “the Son of God” (Romans 1:4). In verbally speaking with God that Jesus is the Son of God, one is confessing Him to be the Lord and Christ, of our salvation.

Jesus teaches that being saved is not by faith “alone.” Jesus declared, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*” (Mark 16:16a). Being immersed in water, or being baptized into the name or authority follows one believing in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God. If one does not believe the revealed Gospel, he or she will be “condemned” (Mark 16:16b).

The Scriptures harmonize that salvation is in Jesus alone when one responds fully to the Gospel message. Repentance, or the turning away from sin, is connected with being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). People must first “hear” the word in order to have “faith” in Christ (Romans 10:17, Acts 16:31-32). As we have learned, confessing Jesus with our mouths, and being baptized in water for the remission of sins are also essential to being saved, not faith “alone.”