

Biblical Faith – No. 5

Dub McClish

Sometimes it helps us to determine what a thing is by learning what it is not. This is so concerning the *faith* that each person must have in order to be saved (Mark 16:15–16). Like many other Biblical words, *faith* has been variously misdefined.

1. Some equate faith with wishful thinking – “pie in the sky by and by.” In this misconception, “faith” has no reality upon which to rest. The existence of God, Christ, the Bible, and Heaven are all things one **wishes** to be real and **wants** to believe in so badly that one convinces himself that they exist.
2. Some completely sunder faith from knowledge. To them “faith” goes beyond knowledge, taking up where knowledge ceases. To these misdefiners, “faith” is the proverbial “leap in the dark.”
3. Many conceive of saving “faith” as merely intellectual acceptance of certain Biblical facts (e.g., the existence of God, the Deity of Christ). Although such acknowledgement of Bible teaching is the **beginning** point of saving faith, it is far from its **end**.
4. Some view faith as believing in things which may **possibly** exist. Accordingly, some allege that, while we cannot prove God’s existence empirically, yet His existence is more probable than improbable. This misapprehension of faith constitutes agnosticism.
5. Others conceive of believers as those who ignore evidence with which they disagree. Skeptics often thus view Biblical faith. However, the better demonstration of this aberration of faith is the evolutionist, who defies, denies, and denigrates the huge body of evidence that validates the Bible and combats his irrational hypotheses.

While not exhaustive, the foregoing list is representative of the major misunderstandings of faith. We must never cease to emphasize to a world of confused “believers” that saving faith is always obedient faith:

But when they **believed** Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized**, both men and women (Acts 8:12, *emph. added*).

And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed** in the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing **believed**, and were **baptized** (18:8, *emph. added*).

The only sort of faith that accomplishes anything religiously is one based on Biblical evidence and is a “faith which worketh by love” (Gal. 5:6).

[**Note:** I wrote this article for and it appeared, in *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Denton, Texas, September 7, 2007.

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