

A scenic photograph of a beach. In the foreground, golden sand is marked with several footprints. A white, foamy wave is washing onto the shore from the left. The ocean is a deep blue, and a distant, hazy island is visible on the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

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**SO THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTS CHAPTER 2:38;**

**WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND  
PETERS RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION  
WHAT MUST WE DO?**

**BECAUSE IF WHAT PETER  
SAID FOR THEM TO DO  
SAVED PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS THEN!**

**THE SAME RESPONSE  
BY US TODAY WILL SAVE US!**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

We recognise that Jesus prayed for us to be united in Him and also we recognise that **INSTEAD of finding UNITY** among Gods people we find **DISAGREEMENT!**

**DISAGREEMENT** In the crucial area of Salvation!

We who claim to be God's children are not able to agree on the fundamental question of how one is to come into a saved relationship with God, who is and wants to be our heavenly Father.

We cannot agree on how God wishes to save us.

We want to be saved on our terms rather than listen to God's terms as revealed in His word through the Holy Spirit.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**WE** have looked at the concept of sin and seen that we have been separated from God as one of its major consequences.

**WE** have looked at the importance of God's Grace and recognised that without God's grace demonstrated in the death burial and resurrection of Jesus, it would be impossible for us to approach God in our sinful condition.

**We** need to respond to the love that has been shown to us if we are to have any hope of forgiveness from our sins and of the possibility of sharing an eternity with the God who demonstrated His love towards us through the cross.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

Let us remind ourselves of what **our faith is in response to**, this is a statement that overviews the bible from cover to cover.

**“God loves us so much that He sent His son, Jesus the Christ, the perfect expression of His love because God wants us to spend eternity with Him”.**





# WHAT IS FAITH?

We need to keep a broad over view of the Bible when we see the wider context we recognise it is Important to Understanding God's Overall Message.

Throughout His word, God continues to tell about His love and patience with man.

Down through time God has made many **Covenants or agreements** with man.

As we look at the scriptures **we recognise two of His major covenants, The Old Testament and the New Testament.**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**A Testament is like a Promise or a Covenant and agreement. It is a Promise or agreement between Two Parties with Conditions to Be Met.**

**So in the scriptures  
we read about an OLD PROMISE  
and we read about a NEW PROMISE.**

**God has made many promises in the Old Testament!  
He fulfilled those promises by giving us the  
opportunity of salvation through the blood of Jesus.  
It is our faith in Jesus and what He has achieved  
for us that is what this lesson is all about!**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**In 1 Peter 1:18-21; God's grace reminds us.**

**“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

**He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.**

**“Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”**



# In The Beginning God Had A Plan!

The line on the **left side** of the diagram represent the **beginning of time** and life as we know it.

WE were not there at Creation. We **believe** (have **FAITH**) in creation because **we have faith** in what God has revealed in His word.



# In The Beginning God Had A Plan!

The line on the **right side** of the diagram represents the day we will **all stand before Gods judgement**,  
The day life on this earth will be over.

It will also be the beginning of **a timeless existence** that will continue for eternity, **either with God in heaven or separated from Him for eternity.**

Some place in between creation and judgment,  
**God sent His son to buy us back**  
**from sin and separation from Him.**



**He was chosen before He created the world.**

**Isn't it amazing that God knew  
we would need to be saved from our sin  
even before He created the world?**

**Jesus was a part of God's plan before creation.  
He was chosen before the world  
to become the sin payment for us.**

**Jesus was the lamb,  
sacrificed for our redemption.**

**He came to reveal God's will  
and through him we can have  
a relationship with God.**



# WHAT IS FAITH?

God put Adam and Eve in the garden  
and **created them with the ability to make choices.**

**Genesis 2:15-17;**

**“The LORD God took the man  
and put him in the Garden of Eden  
to work it and take care of it.**

**And the LORD God  
commanded the man,**

**"You are free to eat from any tree  
in the garden; but you must not eat  
from the tree of the knowledge  
of good and evil, for when you  
eat of it you will surely die."**



# **Perfect Fellowship With God.**

**God gave Adam and Eve everything  
they needed while they were in  
this perfect fellowship with Him.**

**Remember  
the choice  
God gave them  
while they were  
in the garden?**



# **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.**

**The tree of knowledge of good and evil was in the garden. Adam and Eve were not to eat of it, but God gave them the choice whether to obey him or not.**

**If they did eat, they would sin and the consequence would be separation from God. Did they have Faith did they put their trust in what God said?**

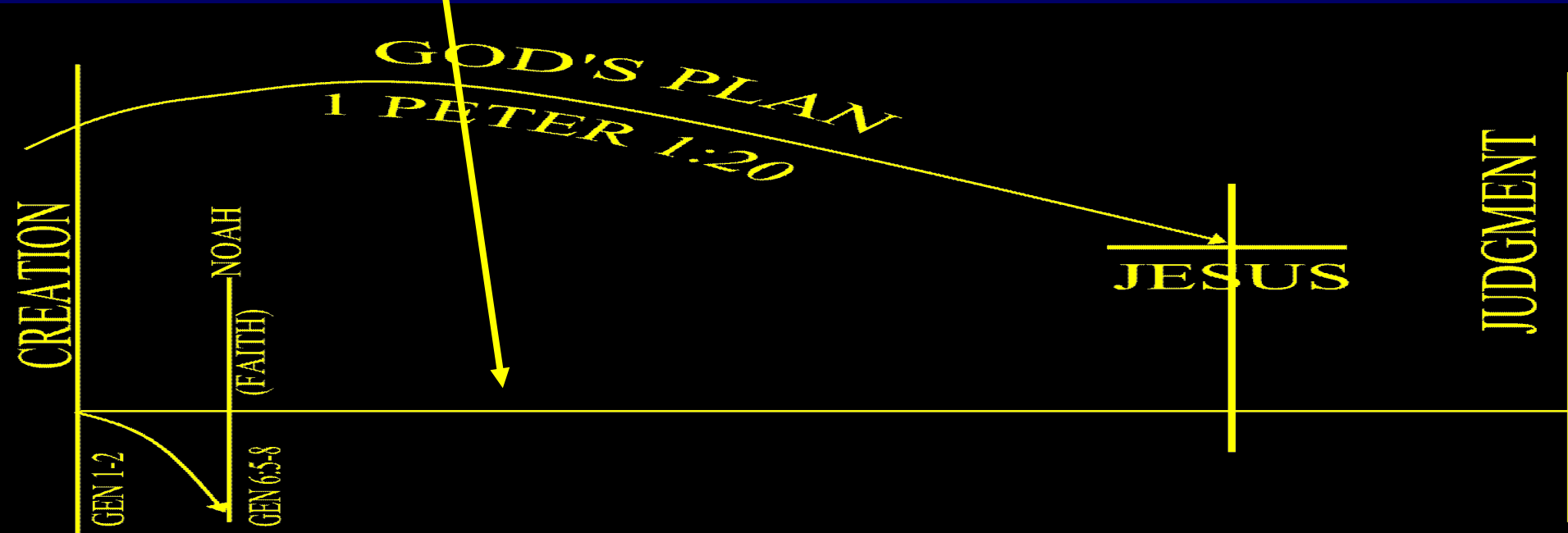
**Later In Genesis 3-5;  
We Are Told That  
Adam and Eve Sinned and Were  
Removed From God's Presence.**





# WHAT IS FAITH?

The **horizontal line** through the middle of the drawing represents **God's will for mankind.**



While **the small arrow** going downward from creation to Noah represents **the direction man went.**

# Noah Found Favour in the Eyes of the Lord.

Genesis 6:5-8; “The LORD saw **how great man's wickedness** on the earth had become, and that **every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.**”

“The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and His heart was filled with pain.  
So the LORD said,

“I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air, for I am grieved that I have made them. **But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord**”



**God loves us and  
wants a relationship with us.**

**That's why our bad choices hurt Him.**

**Genesis 6 does not say why  
Noah found favour in God's eyes.**

**Hebrews 11:7; Tells us more:-**

**“By faith Noah, when warned  
about things not yet seen,  
in holy fear built an ark  
to save his family.**

**By his faith he condemned  
the world and became  
heir of the righteousness  
that comes by faith.”**



# WHAT IS FAITH?

The **BIBLE** does not provide  
**precise definitions of words and phrases.**  
IT DOES, however, use them in **CONTEXTS**  
where **we can UNDERSTAND** their meanings.

**LOVE** is a good example of how the scriptures  
use words in contexts which give us insight  
into the meaning of words.

**Paul does not tell us what love means;  
He tells us how love behaves!**

**“Love suffers long, and is kind. . . .  
Does not behave itself unseemly;  
seeks not her own.” (I Cor 13:4-5;)**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

From Paul's expressions in the great love chapter, **we can easily understand what love is since we know how it behaves.**

Walter E. Vine says concerning **faith:-**

It is “**primarily, firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing. (akin to peitho, to persuade.)**”

**The New Testament often uses faith as a synonym of trust.**

**“And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.” (I Cor 15:14;)**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

The Corinthians had to have **complete trust in Christ's resurrection from the dead.**

If Christians were not going to be raised, then their trust in Christ would have been misplaced.  
“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.” (I Cor 15:17;)

The word “**faith**” is often used to mean **trustworthiness or faithfulness.**

“For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief **make the faith of God without effect?**”  
(Rom 3:3;)



# WHAT IS FAITH?

Paul commands servants not to **appropriate** another's property for oneself. (K.J.V. "**purloin.**")  
"but **showing fidelity;(faithfulness)** that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."  
(Titus 2:10;)

**Faith as faithfulness** or fidelity not only applies to our **conduct toward God** but **toward our fellowmen as well.**

The word "**faith**" is also used in reference to **what one believes, the content of one's faith.**  
That is especially true of Paul's letters.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**A few examples should be helpful.**

**“And the word of God increased; and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great number of priests were obedient to THE faith.”** (Acts 6:7;).

**After Paul had obeyed the gospel, there were understandably some Christians who were still afraid of him.**

**He says “he was unknown by face unto the congregations of Judea which were in Christ: but they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preaches THE faith which once he destroyed.”** (Gal 1:22-23;)

# WHAT IS FAITH?

Probably the best known example of this use of the word “faith” is in Jude. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for THE FAITH which was once delivered unto the saints. But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.”

Faith is not a feeling, an opinion or a hunch. It is solid enough to undergird our hopes and to prove the things we have not seen.

Both words substance and evidence, tell us that faith must be founded on fact or it is not faith at all.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

If confidence and proof have no foundation,  
we are guilty of merely wishing or dreaming.  
**Wishing does not make it so.**

The great **heroes of faith** in Hebrews 11 were  
men and women who had enough **proof to have**  
**complete confidence in the promises of God.**

## **Faith in the Book of Hebrews?**

No other book of the New Testament  
has such a long teaching on faith  
as does the book of Hebrews.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

Although Hebrews does not give a definition of faith, it does provide wonderful insight into **the NATURE AND THE ACTION OF FAITH.**

“Now faith is **the substance** of things hoped for, **the evidence** of things not seen.” (Heb 11:1;)

The Greek word translated “**substance**” is **hupostasis** and means that which stands under, the foundation, that which produces confidence.

“**Evidence**” signifies proof, proving and hence **absolute conviction.**”

**Both of these words indicate the need for a firm foundation for faith.**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaks.” (Heb 11:4;)**

**Unless God had revealed to Abel and to Cain  
What He expected of them, He was arbitrary  
and capricious (mere opinion or random choice)  
in dealing with them.**

**They had to know what God wanted from them.**

**“So then faith comes by hearing and  
hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17;)**



# WHAT IS FAITH?

When God spoke to Cain and to Abel;  
**they either trusted what He said or they did not.**

Abel trusted God and complied  
with the Lord's commands.

Cain did not trust Him and was **condemned**  
**for his lack of faith and faithfulness.**

**Noah** is another example  
of **complete trust** in the **promises of God.**

# **Noah's Descendents?**

**Noah's response of obedience to God**  
brought back the quality level of mankind  
to what God desired.

**God was able to have fellowship with Noah.**

**But history repeats itself**  
**and Noah's descendents**  
**were disobedient to God.**

# God's Plan Unfolds Through Men of Faith?



Several hundred years **after Noah**, another man with **great faith** was **obedient to God**, Abraham. **Abraham had such faith that God made a promise to him.**

# God's Promise To Abraham?

The PROMISE had three parts:-

1. God promised that Abraham would become a nation through his descendants who would be too numerous to count.

**Genesis 12:1-3;** "The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. **"I will make you into a great nation** and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."**

# **God's Promise To Abraham?**

## **2nd Part Of The Promise To Abraham:-**

**2. God promised that Abraham's descendants would inherit the land of Canaan and receive God's protection (conditioned upon their faithfulness.)**

### **Genesis 13:15-16;**

**“All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.”**

# **God Gave Them A Land To Live In.**

**Just as He promised, God gave them a land to live in and He protected them from their enemies, as long as they remained faithful to Him.**





# God's Promise To Abraham?

## 3rd Part Of The Promise To Abraham:-

**3. God promised that through Abraham, all nations would be blessed because Abraham was to be a direct ancestor of Jesus.**

### **Genesis 18:17-19;**

**“Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”**

# Abraham and Sarah?

They were too old to have children.  
Yet God had made them a promise.

Sarah gave birth to **Isaac**.  
Isaac had twin sons,  
**Jacob** and Esau.

Jacob had twelve sons.  
Ten of his sons, along with  
two grandsons, **became**  
**the Twelve Tribes of Israel**.  
Abraham's family  
began to multiply  
**just as God had Promised**.



# **Most Important To Gentiles.**

**This third part of the promise**  
is most important to the Gentiles,  
that **all nations** would be **blessed through Israel.**

**Galatians 3:16, 26-27, 29;**

**“The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.”**

**“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

**If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”**

# God's Promised Is Fulfilled!

**Jesus Christ Is the Seed of Abraham and Through Him All Nations Can Receive God's Blessings.**



# The Nation of Israel, Falls.



History repeats itself, and **this nation Israel** that had **a covenant relationship with God** Again **departed** from His way.

# **Israel Separated From God.**

**430 years after the promise was made to Abraham, Israel was separated from God and from their land.**



**They found themselves in bondage to Egypt.  
They had become a nation of slaves  
to the Egyptians.**



# Moses was called by God!

**Moses** was called by God to lead the people out of bondage. He was chosen **because of his faith**.

**Hebrews 11:24-27**; “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. **He chose to be mistreated** along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.”

“He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. **By faith he left Egypt**, not fearing the king's anger; **he persevered because he saw him who is invisible**.”





# WHAT IS FAITH?

If God had not spoken to Moses or if God had promised one thing but given something else.

**Moses would not have had confidence enough to trust what God said.**

He would have been foolish to sacrifice his position and power in Egypt **for weak or nonexistent promises.**

**God had been faithful**  
in His dealings with Moses and the Israelites;  
**so Moses had every reason to trust in Gods word.**

# Moses Trusted God.

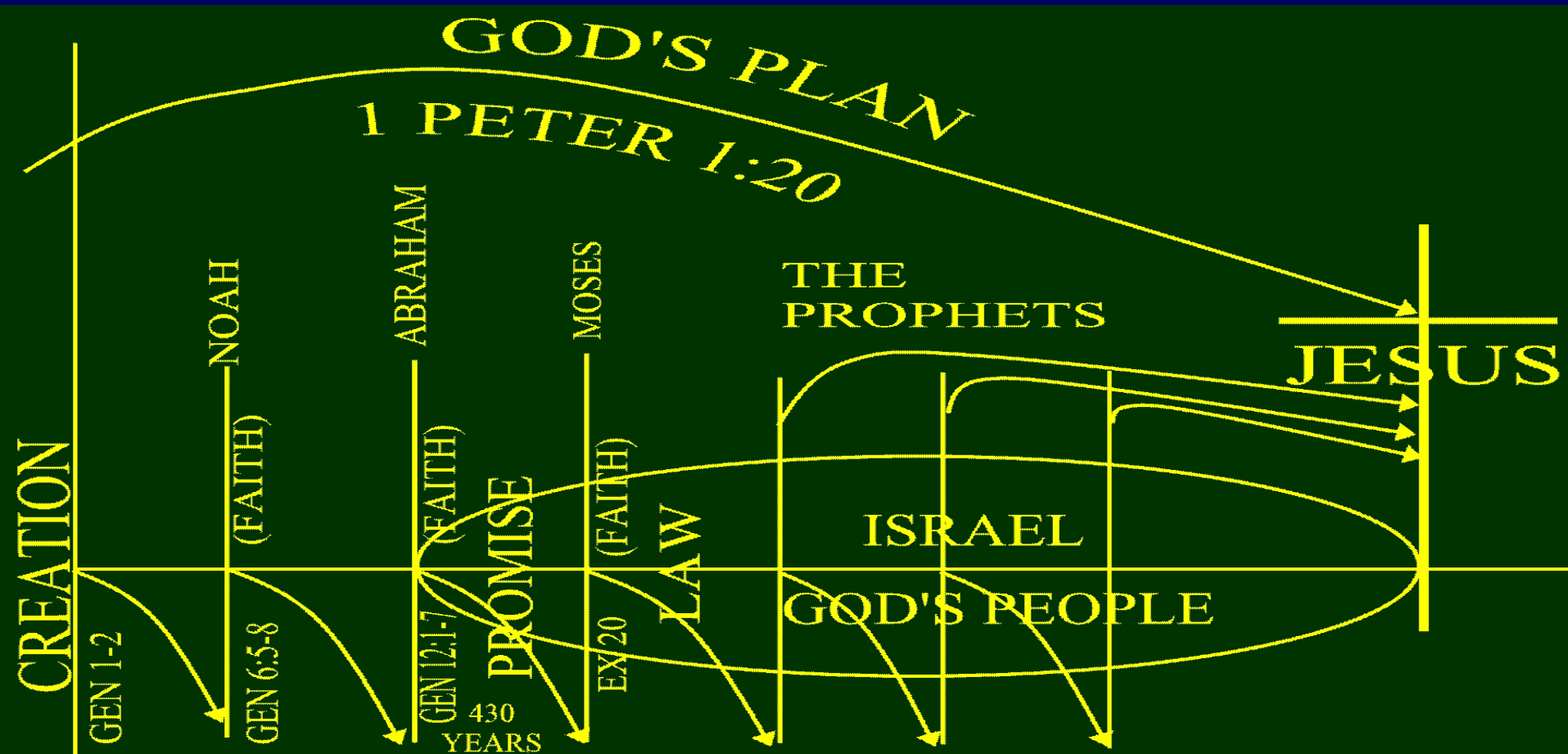
Notice that **all the great people of God** lived with **a trusting faith**. Moses action was **a result** of how much **he trusted God**.

He led the people of Israel out of Egypt to Mt Sinai where the law was given.

The people of Israel now had a promise from God and a law to live by. (Exodus 20;) God also gave them a homeland again, but they frequently departed from God, **Showing their lack of faith.**



# The Prophets?



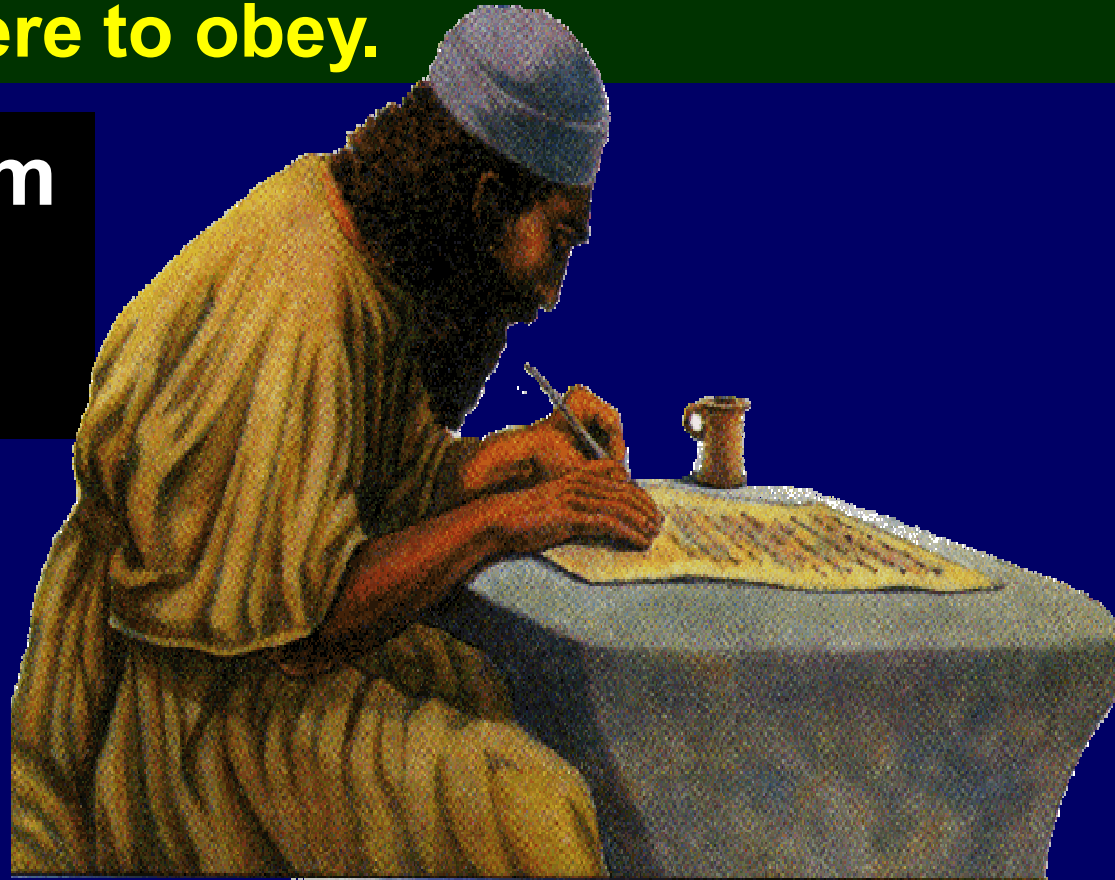
**JESUS IS THE CENTRE OF GOD'S PLAN.**

# Prophets Sent by God.

Since God's promise of the land was conditional upon their faithfulness, When they disobeyed, God raised up a nation to take them captive.

Then God sent the prophets to remind them of the law that they were to obey.

Also to remind them that a Messiah was coming.



# The Prophet's Message!

Prophets were good men, not perfect men, but men who trusted God. They were **given a message** from God to “**tell forth**” to the people. **This is the literal meaning of the word prophet.**

**The message** often told how God saw their disobedience and **warned of judgment.**

**The message sometimes also foretold future events, including the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom.**



# **The Old Testament!**

**Faith is involved in all that we have looked at so far in the 39 books of the Old Testament.**

**REMEMBER the Old Testament is made up of:-**

**The first 5 books of History and Law  
From Creation and the life of Moses.**

**The 12 books dealing with the History of the Nation of Israel  
from the time after Moses.**

**Through to the Last Book of the Old Testament.**

**The next 5 books were Poetry, Songs, and Wisdom  
Literature, All of Which Were Used  
in the Israelites' Worship to God.**

**The next 17 books are the Writings of the Prophets.  
Through the entire old testament we see that God had a plan  
that He made known to His people one step at a time.**

## **The New Testament Is:-**

**Notice how everything is pointing forward to the fulfillment of God's plan in the coming of Jesus.**

**Jesus DID come if we do not believe this we have no faith!**

**Jesus the Messiah DID come to Earth. Born in the Nation of Israel as God told Abraham He would be. God Foretold What Tribe (Judah) and What Family (David) in that Tribe the Christ would be born.**

**God through the Prophets foretold that He would be born in the City of David (Bethlehem). Born of a Virgin (Mary).**





# **Prophecies were Fulfilled!**

**Jesus Fulfilled** 60 Major Prophecies  
in the Old Testament and 270 consequences  
or outcomes of those prophecies.

**The Old Testament gives us plenty of  
evidence to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.**





# The Gospels!

In the First Four Books of **the New Testament**,  
**the Gospels**, We find some information  
about some of Jesus' Life.

**They are not meant to be a complete biography.**

**Jesus** did not come to be **a messenger** of God  
like the prophets were.

**He came to be God's message; literally,  
God became flesh and lived among us.**



## **WHAT IS FAITH? John 1:1-18;**

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

**In Him was life, and that life was the light of men**

**The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

**The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.”**

# **WHAT IS FAITH? John 1:1-18;**

**“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”**

**“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me **because he was before me.**'”**

**“From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.”**

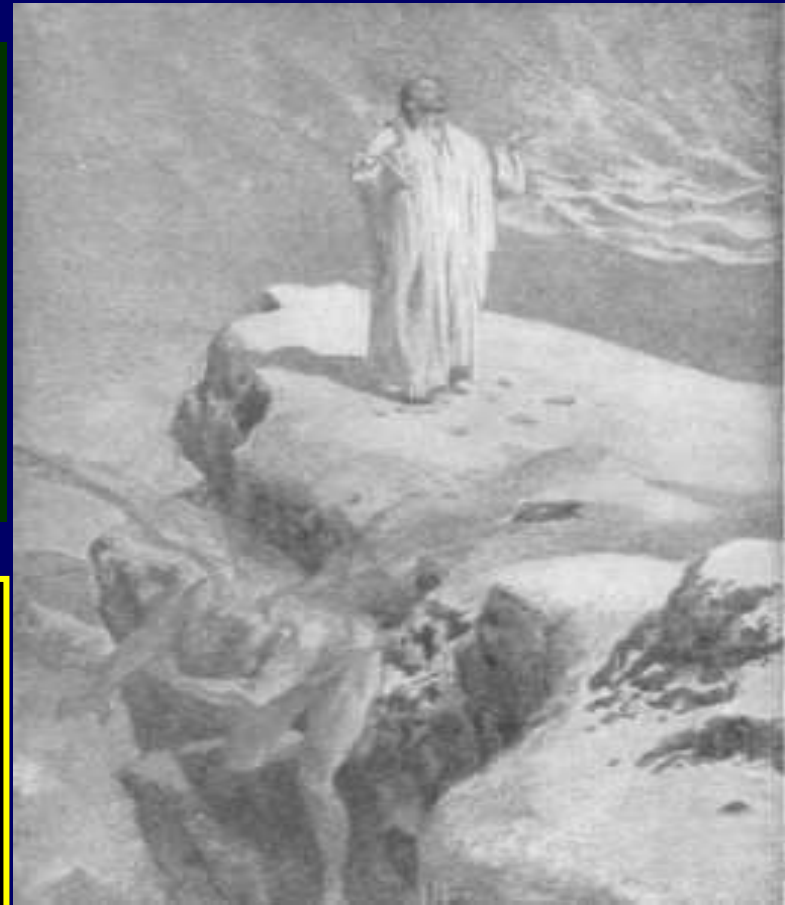
# Jesus Was Tempted and Yet Was Without Sin.

Hebrews 4:14-16;

Therefore, since **we have a great high priest** who has gone through the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God**, let us **hold firmly** to the faith we profess.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



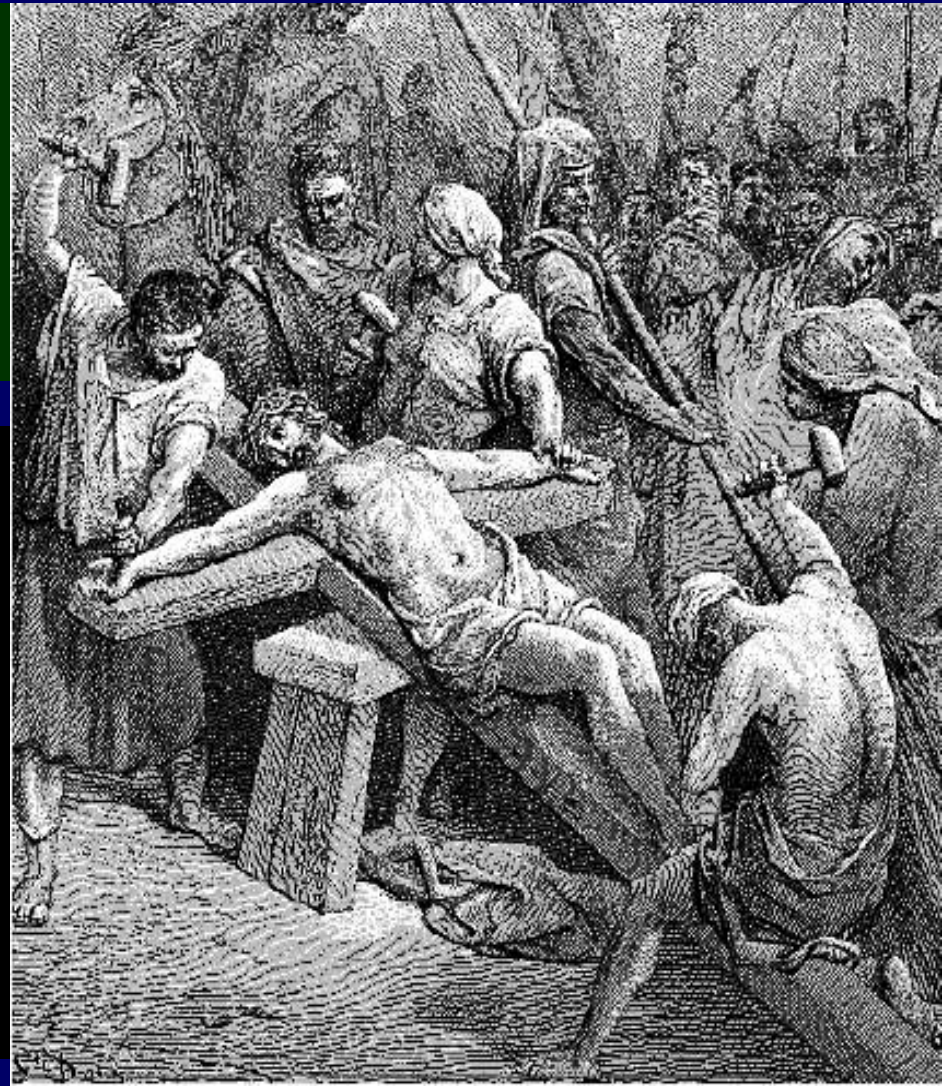


# **Jesus Offered Himself!**

**He Offered Himself As a Sacrifice for Our Sins  
According to God's Perfect Eternal Plan.**

**Jesus was Crucified, a  
Painful Humiliating Death,  
just like the Prophets said  
In Isaiah 53.**

**Jesus Went Willingly  
to the Cross to Pay a Price  
for Our Sin  
That We Could Not Pay.  
He Did This So We Could  
Spend Eternity With Him  
If We Put Our Faith  
and Trust in Him.**



# **God Raised Jesus!**

**Three days** after His crucifixion, **God raised Jesus from the dead.** He appeared to the apostles for a period of forty days speaking about the kingdom of God.



**“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:1-3;**

# Jesus Ascended To Heaven!

**They watched Him as He ascended to heaven where He has gone to prepare a place for us.**

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you.**

**I am going there to prepare a place for you."**

**"if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

**You know the way to the place where I am going."** John 14:1-3;





# Jesus Sends The Promised Holy Spirit!

About ten days later,  
Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit from God  
to empower the apostles and inspire them to  
preach the message of salvation to the whole world.



This Brought About **The Birth Of The Called out,**  
The new **Family of God,** The new **Kingdom Of God.**  
(Acts 2;)



# **Our FAITH is built upon our KNOWLEDGE.**

**Unbelievers often accuse Christians of leaving their brains outside the church building when they go to worship God and study Gods word.**

**Hebrews 11:8, 17; says:-**

**“By faith Abraham . . . obeyed.**

**“By faith Abraham . . . offered up Isaac”**

**These examples connect faith with works or obedience. Our faith is in the grace of God revealed through the sacrifice of Jesus.**

**What right have we to disconnect what God has connected?**

**"We are not saved by faith alone.**

**We are not saved by works alone.**

**We are saved by a faith which works by love.”**

**WHAT IS FAITH?**

**SAVED BY  
FAITH ALONE?**

**Many people preach and teach  
this method  
of salvation today!**

# **HOW TO BE SAVED**

## **According to Billy Graham!**

**How to receive Christ?:-**

**Admit your need! (I am a sinner.)**

**Be willing to turn from your sins.  
(repent.)**

# **HOW TO BE SAVED**

## **According to Billy Graham!**

**How to receive Christ?:-**

**Believe that Jesus Christ died  
for you on the Cross  
and rose from the grave.**

# **HOW TO BE SAVED**

## **According to Billy Graham!**

**How to receive Christ?:-**

**Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)**

# **HOW TO BE SAVED According to Billy Graham!**

**How to receive Christ?:-**

**Suggested prayer:-** Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner  
and need Your forgiveness.

I believe that You died for my sins.

I want to turn from my sins.

# **HOW TO BE SAVED**

## **According to Billy Graham!**

**How to receive Christ:**

**Suggested prayer:-**

**I now invite You  
to come into my heart and life.  
I want to trust and follow You  
as Lord and Savior.**

**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Signature\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date**

# **HOW TO BE SAVED**

## **According to Billy Graham!**

**If you prayed this prayer,  
The Bible says...**

**"For 'whoever calls upon the name  
of the Lord will be saved.'"**

**Romans 10:13;**

**extract from Billy Graham's web site  
and his Steps to Peace with God.**



Would you **agree or disagree**  
that the advise given by Billy Graham  
**is what the Scriptures teach**  
**about salvation?**

This is **often called** the “sinners prayer”  
**Taught by many**  
**but not found anywhere in the scriptures.**

Others also speak about the need  
to **PRAY THROUGH TO GOD**  
**FOR SALVATION!**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

No New Testament writer makes plainer or more emphatic the truth that faith and works are interrelated than James.

How much good does faith do for the poor when it says, **“Be warmed and filled,”** and **does not provide food, clothing and shelter?**

**“What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith and have not works? can faith save him?” (Jas. 2:14)?**

**As vital as faith is  
and salvation without faith is impossible.  
(Heb 11:6;)**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

## DOES FAITH ALONE SAVE ?

“You see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only.**” (Jas 2:24;)

We are **not saved by faith alone.**

We are **not saved by works alone.**

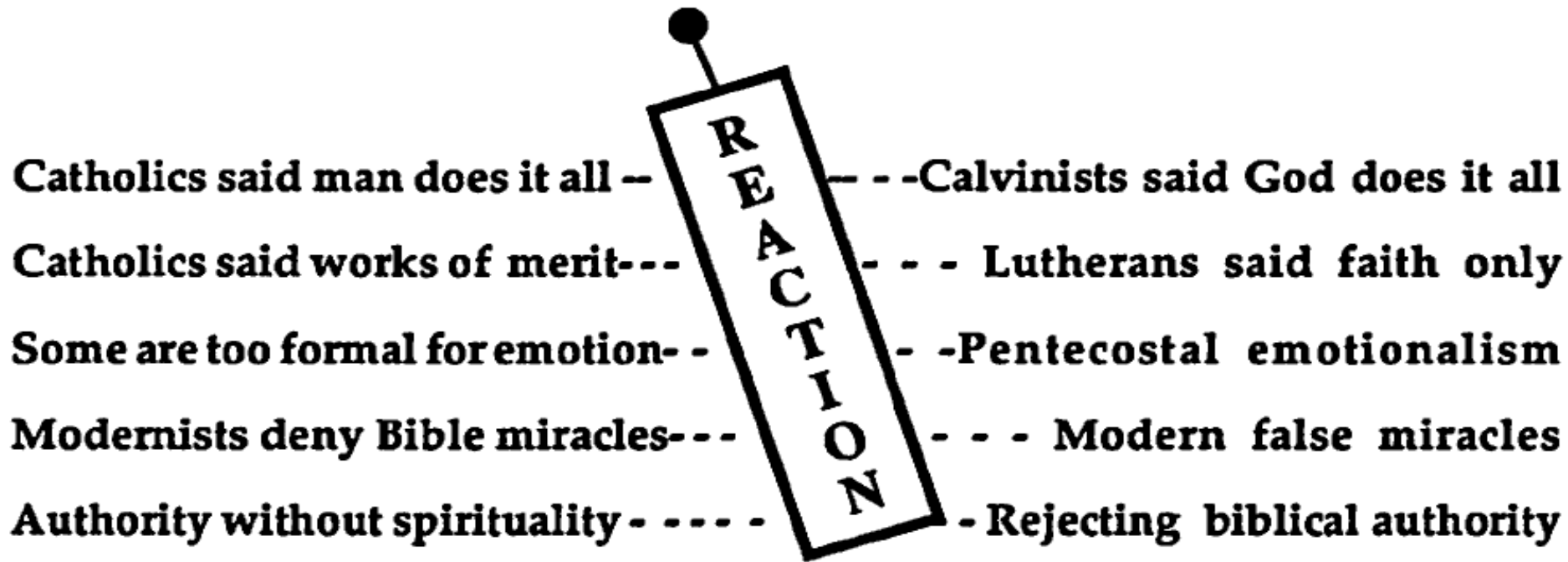
**We are saved by a faith which works by love.**  
(Gal 5:6;)

**Faith based on the truth of God's word  
provides a solid foundation  
for time and for eternity.**

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”  
(Heb 11:6;)

# WHAT IS FAITH?

## Extreme-ism Is Reacting Too Far

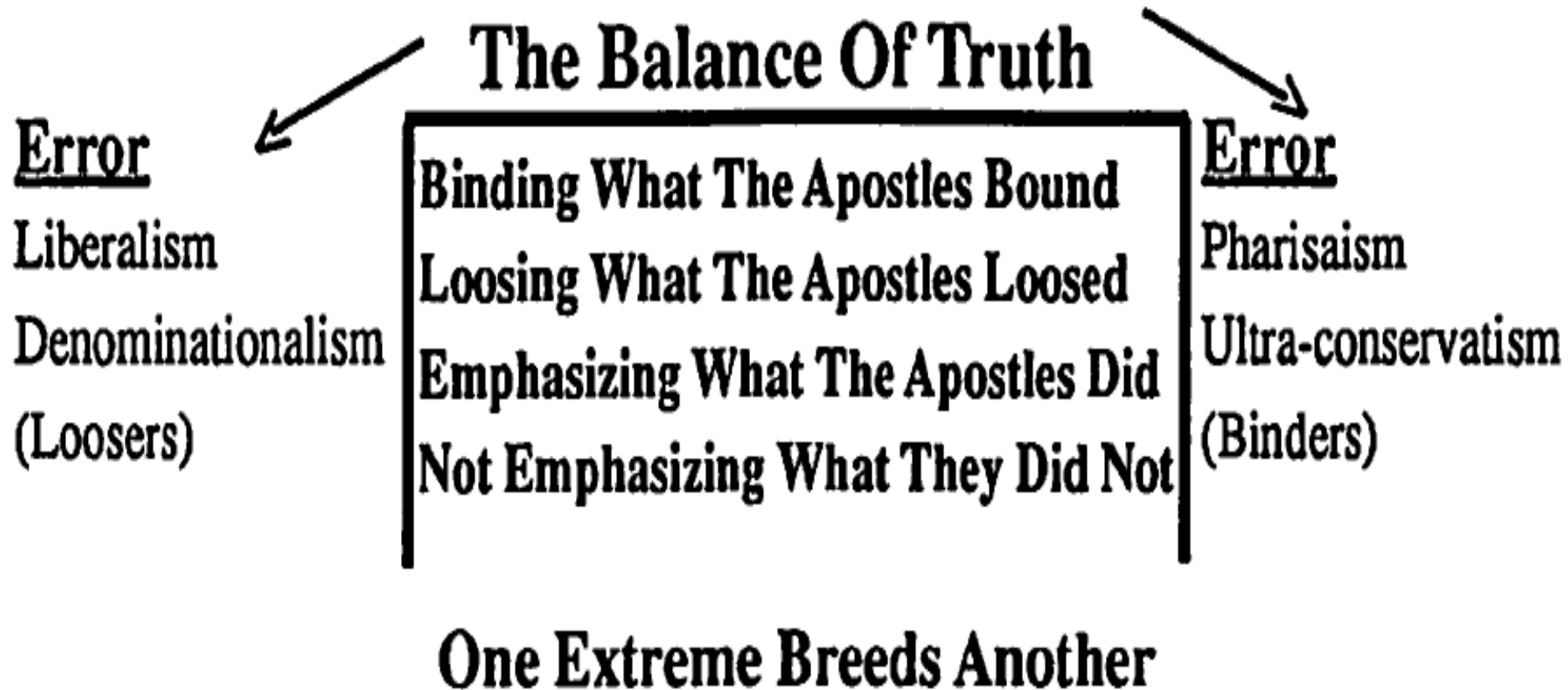


**Pendulums Swing Back Too Far**

**Do not fall off either side! :- Error is found by “turning aside” to either extreme of truth.**

**Error in one direction is just as bad as in the other!**

# WHAT IS FAITH?



Do not let one error cause you to react into an opposite error that is just as bad.

**Beware of extreme-ism,**  
reacting too far to an opposite direction.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

**Faith alone is not faith at all; it is a dead faith.**

**“For as the body without the spirit is dead,  
so faith without works is dead also.”**

**(Jas 2:26;)**

## **So WHAT IS FAITH?**

**It is Intellectual belief** in specific  
facts based upon evidence.

**It is Trust:-** A Reliance upon God;  
Loyalty to God even  
in the most difficult times.

# WHAT IS FAITH?

## **It is a Commitment:-**

**A dedication or surrender of oneself;  
Acceptance of personal responsibility.**

**It is Conviction:-** Deep rooted beliefs  
which are not easily abandoned.

**It is a Steadfastness:-** The ability  
to stick at it, no matter what the cost.



# WHAT FAITH IS NOT?

## **Faith is not Legalism:-**

**An unwarranted dedication to the obedience of rules and regulations.**

## **Faith is not a leap in the dark:-**

**“Not Blind Faith.”- This is obstinate optimism based on wishful hoping, mindless without reason or evidence.**

**NOTE:-** That the church of Rome makes a distinction between:-

**EXPLICIT faith:-**

Belief in something understood.

**IMPLICIT faith:-**

Unquestioning agreement to whatever is taught by the church.

# HOW DOES FAITH GROW?

**1. By hearing the Word of God.**

Rom 10:17; John 20:30-31; Gal 3:5;

**2. By Prayer.** Phil 4: 6-7;

**3. By Meditation.** Psa 1:2;

**4. By Fellowship** with Gods people.

Acts 2:47;.

**5. By putting belief into practice.**

2 Pet 1:5-8;.

**HOW DOES FAITH GROW?**

**“FAITH” is ALWAYS ACTIVE  
NEVER PASSIVE.**

**“FAITH” is like a muscle:-  
It will only Grow through exercise.**

**“FAITH” is NEVER ALONE.**

# **THE EVIDENCE OF FAITH?**

**1. Holiness.**

**2. Good works. Jam 2:14-26;**

**3. Peace with God.**

**Rom 5:1; Phil 4:6-7;.**

**4. Sharing your Faith. Acts 4:13**

**5. Confidence in the promises  
of God. 1 John 4:17;**

Through our faithful obedience we are added to the body, the church, the family the kingdom of God.



The **book of Acts** is a **history book** like the gospels.  
It tells about the spread of the gospel and  
the growth of the church throughout the Roman empire.

In the diagram, the arrow pointing to heaven is the essence of the promise to this body of people who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.



Another **choice** is pictured by the arrow that represents those who are lost, **separated from God because of sin**. They will be separated from God through eternity.



# **The FRUITS of faith upon becoming a Christian.**

**The forgiveness of sins. Acts 10:43;**

**Justification. Rom 5:1;**

**Salvation. Mk 16:16;**

**Sanctification. Acts 15:9;**

**Freedom from spiritual death. Jn 11:25-26;**

**Spiritual life. Jn 20:31;.**

**Eternal life. Jn 3:15-16;**

# **The FRUITS of faith upon becoming a Christian.**

**Adoption.**

**John 1:12;**

**Access to God.**

**Eph 3:12; Isa 59:1;**

**Security.**

**Rom 8:31-39;**

**Inheritance. Acts 26:18;**

**Peace with God. Rom 5:1;**

**Attitude of service. Tit 2:14;**

**Ability to use our talents. James 2:24;**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

I hope this lesson of Faith helps us to realise that **God does LOVE US** and that throughout the ages He has provided a way for people to be with Him forever.

**Through faith in Christ Jesus we can receive God's forgiveness, His grace & His mercy, His indwelling Spirit.**



**The Scriptures from cover to cover tells how much God loves us.**

**He was willing to go to the cross and die for our sins. He challenges us to trust in Him?**

# **HOMEWORK.**

## **Chain reference on Faith.**

**Heb 11:6; Heb 11:1; Rom 5:1;**

**Gal 3:26; Rom 10:17;**

**Jn 20:30-31;**

**READ Luke 15: 11-32;.**

# WHAT IS FAITH?

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**Next in the series:-  
Faith Alone and Acts 2:38;  
Meaning of “eis” “for.”**