

What We Teach – A Journey thru the KBC Doctrinal Statement Faith – January 23, 2022 with Pastor Chris

We teach that saving faith includes knowledge of the gospel (Romans 3:9-26; 10:14), mental assent or agreement with the facts of the gospel, and personal trust in and dependence on the risen Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God (Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:12, 3:16-18, 36, 6:35-40; 7:37-38; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 3:21-30, 4:1-5, 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Biblical Vocab of faith:

OT – Aman; believe (39x); Trust (8x)

Payne, The Theology of the Older Testament:

“Faith therefore can grow or develop in a quantitative way but not qualitative. It does not evolve from doubt to trust. A man either has committed himself to the historical God of salvation or he has not ... faith constitutes the basic commitment from which all other aspects of commitment will follow. Faith in the Person, if sincere, will be followed by a faith in His propositional declarations.”

Batach – to confide in, lean upon, trust; confident reliance and trust in God, to fix all your hope for the present and future on Him. Not partial, fuzzy or vague.

Chasah – to hide one’s self, to flee for refuge, like a storm shelter; Active, intentional, aggressive, even desperate.

Psalm 143:9 Deliver me, O Jehovah, from my enemies; I take refuge in You.

Prov. 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs to it and is safe.

Yhl – patient waiting for God, an enduring hope God will come thru
Job 13.15 Though He slay me, I will hope in Him

NT

Pisteuo (verb) : Believe (230x); Entrust (8x)

Vines Expository Dictionary of NT words:

“to rely on, to trust, to believe, also to be persuaded of and hence, to place confidence in, meaning reliance upon, not mere credence”.

Saving faith has three essential components:

**#1 Knowledge or Intellectual Understanding of the facts of the gospel
(notitia - knowledge, acquaintance; hence idea, notion, concept)**

#2 Approval, agreement, mental assent to gospel facts

#3 Personal trust or dependence on God thru Christ, confessing Him as Lord and Savior

The volitional element (fiducia – confidence, trust, assurance)

John 3:16!

Leon Morris: “Faith, for John, is an activity which takes men right out of themselves and makes them one with Christ” so that *pisteuo eis* is not just intellectual assent but includes personal trust.

Berkoff sees three successive stages that together equals saving faith:

- 1) general confidence in God and Christ
- 2) acceptance of their testimony on the basis of that trust and
- 3) yielding to Christ and trusting in Him (a steady and restful repose) for salvation of the soul.

Wayne Grudem summarizes well: “When a person comes to Christ, all three elements must be present. One, basic knowledge or understanding of the facts of the gospel. Two, approval or agreement with these facts, including a conviction that the gospel is true, especially the fact that I am a sinner in need of salvation and that Christ alone has paid the penalty for my sin and offers salvation to me and an awareness that I need to trust Christ for salvation and that he is the only way to God and the only means provided for my salvation. This approval of the facts will also involve a desire to be saved through Christ. But all this still does not add up to true saving faith. That comes only when I (three) make a decision of my will to depend on, or put my trust in, Christ as my Savior. This personal decision to place my trust in Christ is something done with my heart, the central faculty of my entire being that makes commitments for me as a whole person.”

Guthrie in NT Theology: “Faith is the negation of self-confidence. It says “no” to pride in human achievement. It involves throwing oneself unreservedly on the mercy of God ... The mission of Jesus was based on the conviction that what God expected of people was impossible through human effort ...”

Erickson in Christian Theology: “as repentance is the negative aspect of conversion, turning from one’s sin, so faith is the positive aspect, laying hold upon the promises and work of Christ”. Saving faith is “both believing that and believing in, assenting to facts and trusting in a person”

Berkoff: “saving faith is a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance or trust on the promises of God in Christ.”

George Zemek: saving faith is “man’s response to God characterized by a totally dependent trust and demonstrated through a persistent commitment to obedience.”

Finally, what are we trusting Jesus for?