



Authentic Faith that Saves Us Romans 3:21 – 4:25

Today's passage helps us find a proper perspective on an authentic faith that runs deep enough to truly save us. We need the following qualities of authentic faith to assure our salvation.

Authentic faith avoids all 'add-ons' to complete our salvation | Romans 4:1-18

- **Faith that does not add a work requirement saves us** (v. 1-8)
"For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God." (v.2)
 - **My good works create pride** (v. 1-3)
 - **My good works will never remove my sin and achieve God's righteousness** (v. 3-8)
Genesis 15:6, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-7
- **Faith that does not add religious rituals saves us** (v. 9-12)
 - **Religious rituals can never cause us to be righteous** (v. 9-10)
 - **Religious rituals should only confirm our righteousness** (v. 11-12)
Philippians 3:1-11
- **Faith that does not add obedience to God's law saves us** (v. 13-18)
"For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith." (v.13)
 - **The Law reveals our sin, but cannot make us righteous** (v. 13-15)
 - **The Law obscures a life of grace and hope** (v. 16-18)
"For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace... In hope against hope he believed..." (v.16, 18)

Authentic faith trusts in God's promises during our own weakness | Romans 4:19-22

"Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform." (v. 19-21)

- Genesis 22 – See Digging Deeper for a model of authentic faith in action.
- II Corinthians 12:7-10, James 1:2-4

Authentic faith trusts in Jesus' death and resurrection as payment for our sins and to become as holy as God | Romans 4:23-25

"Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS....but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead..." (v. 22, 24)

Digging Deeper

A challenge many people face about spiritual and eternal issues is having a shallow faith that does not result in true salvation. Shallow faith may be a child who raised his or her hand to “receive Jesus as Savior” but then never lived that faith in their adult years.

The other challenge some deal with is adding many work requirements to our lives to assure ourselves that we are really, really saved. Sometimes this is called Lordship salvation. In other words, unless we are truly living a spiritual life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in obedience to Him, then we are probably not saved.

Jesus warned us about the importance of true faith in Matthew 13:1-23. This parable compares four kinds of faith.

LifeGroup Discussion: Read Matthew 13:1-23 together and discuss the following questions.

1. **What are the four kinds of soils and what faith challenges do we face in each one in verses 18-23? Which soil best describes your faith in God’s Word?**

God promised Abraham children and a nation in Genesis 15. Abraham believed God’s Word and God declared that Abraham’s faith made him righteous. Genesis 22 reveals the depth and reality of Abraham’s faith. It is a good example of authentic faith in action. Learn from his life and how your faith can continue to grow.

2. **What aspects of Abraham’s faith can you see in your own life? What aspects of his faith do you find a challenge and want to grow in?**

Authentic faith is....

- **Faith that is open to God’s continued direction and testing in my life.** Genesis 22:1
“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’”
- **Faith that is obedient to God’s Word regardless of the cost.** Genesis 22:2-4
“He said, ‘Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.’” (v.2)
- **Faith that God is powerful enough to provide for me in my most difficult problems.** Genesis 22:5-12
“Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.’” (v.5) Hebrews 11:17-19
- **Faith that perseveres, waiting for God to reveal His grace at the right time.** Genesis 22:13

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord!** Use the booklet in the seat rack called, “The Way to Connect with God” to help you understand who Jesus is and to help guide you through a prayer placing your faith in Him as Savior and Lord.
2. **Have more questions about God and who Jesus is?** Attend the **Alpha Course** beginning, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby. This will help you understand the basics of the Christian faith and explore your questions, doubts or thoughts you have about the Gospel of Jesus. Learn more about the Alpha Course at calvarylife.org/alpha
3. **Find a discipleship mentor through Growing in Christ.** Discipleship is being mentored in what it means to follow Jesus. To find out how you can be mentored, contact Ross Strachan at 714.541.1053.