

Is Faith Only Acceptable For Salvation?

It is commonly believed that ‘faith only’ is all that is necessary for salvation. Some teach, “All a person has to do to be saved, is accept the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior.” Let’s take a look at this.

- **If ‘faith only’ is acceptable for salvation why does the Bible teach otherwise?**

“You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone”

(James 2:24)

These are not works of man (Eph. 2:9) but the works of God. Jesus said in John 9:4, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

“I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

(Luke 13:3)

“And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21).

- **If ‘faith only’ is acceptable for salvation why don’t we find any examples in the book of Acts of this?**

It is important to look in the book of Acts for examples of what is necessary for salvation. In the Gospels, Jesus was still alive on earth. The price for our salvation was not yet paid. Even at Calvary we find Jesus telling a penitent thief that he would be with Him in Paradise. At that moment Jesus had not yet died. But after death we find a consistent pattern.

“And Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38).

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Consider also: Acts 8:12, Acts 10:48, Acts 16:15, 33

There are no examples in the book of Acts of someone being saved by ‘faith only.’

- **If ‘faith only’ is acceptable for salvation why does the New Testament stress obedience and pure living?**

The majority of the New Testament is letters that are written to churches instructing brethren to live as God wants them to.

“not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (Heb. 10:25).

“But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES” (1 Cor. 5:11, 13).

Living pure is important.

- **If ‘faith only’ is acceptable for salvation why then are we going to be judged for things other than our faith?**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10).

Faith ONLY is Not Acceptable for Salvation.

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