

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Quote: Perhaps stating that I have a degree in art education is best “justified” in the eyes of others by the works that I produce and not simply by the words that I say, or the diploma on my wall. The same is true of faith. People know its genuineness by its “fruit.”

Belief in Christ is to have faith in Who He is, to place confidence in what He has accomplished in His death and resurrection, and to entrust your soul to Him as your Savior and Mediator with God. The word, believe also includes the element of obedience. Obedience demonstrates saving faith; it does not determine saving faith. Paul wrote, “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.”¹

**Saving Faith is
Obedient Faith**

James also used Abraham as an example to teach that works of righteousness are the visible fruit of saving faith.² True faith testifies to others in word and deed that we have a new nature! In some respects genuine faith is similar to genuine love; they both produce evidence of their existence. Merely saying that you love someone without demonstrating it is a “dead love”—a hypocritical, worthless love. God demonstrated genuine love when He sent His only begotten Son to die on behalf of His enemies!³ Jesus said, “He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”⁴ John wrote, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”⁵

“Workless faith is worthless faith; it is unproductive, sterile, barren, dead! Spiritual works are the evidence, not the energizer of saving faith.”⁶ Although Christians often fail to be and to do all that we should, as we faithfully stand the tests of temptation without yielding, of trial without quitting and of triumph without self-glorification, we can be assured that our faith is at work! Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your *work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope* in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as *you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake*. And you became *followers of us and of the Lord*, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that *you became examples* to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. *Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.*”⁷ John MacArthur states that “The true believer, the hearer and doer of the Word, proves his faith in three ways: In relation to himself, he is willing to apply the Word without deception; in relation to others, he is willing to apply the Word without selfishness; and in relation to the world, he is willing to apply the Word without compromise.” I would have to add that, in relation to God, he is willing to apply the Word for the glory of “the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy.”⁸ The true believer has as his motivation for obedience the “grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.”⁹

1 Rom.4:2-5 2 James 2:21-24 3 Rom.5:8; 1 Jn.4:4:9-10 4 Jn.14:21 5 1 Jn.1:5-10 6 W. Wiersbe 7 1 Thess.1:2-8 8 Isa.57:15 9 Titus 1:4