



THE NATURE OF FAITH IN CHRIST

It is clear from II Peter 1 that spiritual growth occurs after faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. Peter challenged those who had obtained “like precious faith” (v. 1) to “add to [their] faith” (v. 5). You cannot add to something you do not have! Without faith, there is no gospel growth. So, before we can add to our faith we must make sure that our faith is the kind that God requires for salvation.

Faith is Hopeful Confidence

Faith is the substance of hope in God and His Word. (Heb. 11:1, Heb. 6:19)

Faith is trust in God and His Word in spite of circumstances. (Heb. 11:1, Rom. 4:18-21)

GOD

HIS WORD

IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

Faith includes Repentance

Repentance is a change of mind that affects the will. (Acts 3:14-19, 17:22-30)

Repentance is a turn toward Christ for salvation. (Mark 1:15)

Faith is Incompatible with Works

Faith does not make us worthy, nor does it contribute to our salvation. (Rom. 4:1-8).

Faith is contrasted with works of merit. (Rom. 4:1-8).

Peter says that gospel growth is for those who have “obtained a faith of equal standing with ours” (v. 1). Faith puts us on equal standing in the ability to grow. Have you personally exercised confident, repentant faith in Christ or are you attempting to work for your salvation? Do you view your faith as the starting point, the basis and the foundation of your gospel growth?

PURSUING GOSPEL GROWTH

- Why is the object of our faith so important to our salvation? Contrast faith in Christ with faith in yourself.
- What did you personally have to change your mind about when you put faith in Christ for salvation?
- Why do you think mankind generally attempts to merit salvation through some means?