

What is Saving Faith?

Pastor Jon Beck

Questions to consider:

Do you have a life filled with purpose, meaning, hope, and peace?

Do ever think about spiritual things?

Do you believe in God?

To you, who is Jesus?

Do you know what saving faith is?

Consider the following as you ponder over the above questions.

Question #1

Do you understand who God is?

- God is the creator of all things. The Bible teaches us that “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
- God is holy and just and deserves our praise and obedience. (Rev. 4:8-11).
- God gives eternal life as a gift to those who truly believe (John 3:16).
- This new life is full of joy and direction (John 10:10).
- This new life allows us to spend eternity with Jesus in heaven (John 14:3).

Question #2

Do you understand what man’s problem is?

Have you noticed that no matter how hard you try to live in this world that there is this void that is never fulfilled? As hard as we try we just cannot seem to live a joyful life. The problem is that we are separated from God because of sin.

We are all sinners by nature and by choice. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

We cannot save ourselves. “For by grace are you saved through faith; and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

We deserve God's judgment. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

We must remember that this rebellion is not against man or the church, but rather this rebellion is against God. We are rebelling against the Creator God of the universe. There is nothing on our own that can be done to make right this relationship. That is why God sent His Son Jesus Christ.

Question #3

Do you understand what Jesus Christ has done for you?

God is holy and just and must punish sin. Yet He loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

- Jesus is God and became man (John 1:1, 14).
- Jesus died for us on the cross (1 Peter 3:18).
- Jesus was resurrected (arose) from the dead and is alive today (Romans 4:25; 6:9-10).
- God, through His Holy Spirit, calls us to Himself (John 6:44).

Question #4

Do you understand what you need to do?

The only way Jesus can affect your life is for you to receive Him. The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

You must turn from your sin. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

- Repentance is realizing that a change needs to take place.
- Repentance is realizing only God can change us.
- Repentance is turning away from your sin and turning to God through Jesus.

You must place your faith in Jesus Christ. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

- Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus
- Faith is trusting in Jesus

You must give Christ control of your life. You must surrender to His Lordship. “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is not just saying you believe in Jesus (Matt. 7:21).
- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is giving Jesus control of your life.
- This involves the daily giving of yourself to the Lord and His will for your life. You must stop trusting in yourself and start living in total dependence upon Him.
- This involves striving to be more like Christ each and every day of your life. A life of growing and changing.

You must receive Jesus Christ into your life by personal invitation

Becoming a Christian is something each person must do for themselves. No one else can make this decision for you. It is not something you do after you get your life in order. It is something you do because you realize only God can change your life.

Are you ready to accept the gift of eternal life that Jesus is offering right now? Are you ready to follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord? If so, then repent of your sins and place your faith in Jesus alone for salvation. You must commit your life to Him as Savior and Lord. If you are ready to receive the gift of eternal life, then trust in Jesus right now.

Go to God in prayer. Admit to Him that you are sinner and in need of a Savior. Thank Him for sending His Son, Jesus Christ. Tell Him that you repent of your sins and receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Ask Him to empower you, to change you, and to help you live an obedient and Godly life. Ask Him to save you and come into your life.

If you have become a new believer you can immediately begin to grow as a Christian. You can do this by redirecting your focus in life. Begin to live for God rather than yourself.

- 2 Corinthians 5:9 – Begin living a life that is pleasing to God.
- Matthew 22:37-39 – Begin to develop a growing love for God and for others.
- John 14:21 – Begin to make decisions based on your obedience to and respect for God’s Word,
- John 13: 14-17 – Begin to place the needs of others before your own.

God knows that we will not be perfect, but He does expect us to be growing

As a new believer in Christ you must begin to grow daily in your knowledge and understanding of the Lord. You must develop Godly disciplines in your life that will allow you to put off the old life and put on the new life in Christ. You can experience this new life as you begin to live out these disciplines:

Prayer: Pray daily. Speak to God in a real and personal way throughout the day.

Worship: Give God the praise that He deserves. Love the Lord you God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Bible Study: The Bible is the Word of God. Read it daily. The book of Luke (in the New Testament) is a great place to start.

Fellowship: Meet regularly with other Christians who will help you grow in your new life. Join a faithful church that believes the Bible and glorifies Jesus in all they do.

Service: Serve Christ and serve your fellow human beings. We Christians do not serve out of mere duty, but out of love for our Savior, seeking to be obedient in every aspect of life for the sake of Jesus, our Lord.

Witnessing: Tell others about what Christ has done in your life. Share the good news of God's saving grace with all who will listen.

My prayer is that you will receive the life changing message of Christ and embrace true saving FAITH.

For His Glory,

Pastor Jon Beck

pastorjonbeck@gmail.com