

What Is Real Faith?

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved"
Acts 16:31 (NIV)

*"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"*
Romans 10:14 (NIV)

Mark Twain once said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't true." Mark Twain was not a Christian and he was strongly opposed to the Bible and the idea that Christ was God among other Christian doctrines. He ridiculed Christianity regularly in his writings.

The essence of the Christian message is the matter of believing in, into, on or upon Jesus. But what makes up biblical faith? Romans 10:14 has the answer. We need to reverse the order of the thoughts in this verse to define true faith.

1. Comprehension - First up is the fact we must hear the message. Comprehension is primary and this is why the Lord sends preachers and calls on His people to bear witness to the Good Shepherd.

Knowledge is the first aspect to biblical faith.

2. Conviction - We must be persuaded that the message about Jesus being the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world is actually true. Tragically many people comprehend and are convinced that Jesus is the true Saviour. But they stop there. We are told that Satan's demons not only know the Gospel message, they are persuaded the Gospel is true (James 2:19).

3. Commitment - The third part of biblical faith is an action in response to the first two parts. The genuine believer trusts in Jesus as their own Saviour, their own Shepherd, their own resurrected Lord. In his long life of preaching the late Billy Graham was powerful in calling sinners to commit themselves to

the Lord Jesus. His weekly radio broadcast was called "The Hour of Decision". Graham's magazine was called "Decision Magazine"

All believers need to feed their faith on the Bible regularly. Hence Christians gather weekly to hear the Bible expounded. Believers also read their Bibles daily to hear from the Lord. Thus our faith is strengthened daily as we comprehend its teaching, are convicted of its truth, and commit ourselves to an obedient walk daily toward our eternal home. This is real faith. Sorry Mark Twain, Christians believe what IS true and follow its teaching daily.

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