

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY
MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-934 SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2017

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You

About Heaven ? – Part 3

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

End Times, Grace, Doctrine, Maturity, Discipleship, Hope

Introduction and overview to the series

Heaven, Eternity, Salvation, Faith

2 Peter 1:1-4

Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who have obtained like precious faith** with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: **2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3** as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE

“Why are some people more religious than others? Answers to this question often focus on the role of culture or upbringing. While these influences are important, new research suggests that whether we believe may also have to do with how much we rely on intuition versus analytical thinking. In 2011 Harvard University published a paper showing that people who have a tendency to rely on their intuition are more likely to believe in God. They also showed that encouraging people to think intuitively increased people’s belief in God. Building on these findings, in a recent paper published in Science Magazine, University of British Columbia found that encouraging people to think analytically reduced their tendency to believe in God. Together these findings suggest that belief may at least partly stem from our thinking styles.”

In a paper published by God to the Christians at Rome, God said...

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Romans 1:18-20

Let the record show that,

the God of the Bible invented analytical thinking and the brain that is used to do it.
He also created logic and reason and purpose and meaning.

All these beautiful things are to be used responsibly, that is in concert and in uniformity with the rest of God's revelation just as the Great Conductor intended.

**I would like to acknowledge this morning, that on
October 31st This Tuesday, it will be the 500th Year anniversary of the
birth of the Reformation.**

Martin Luther's Story

**A life of Devotion, Faithfulness, Loyalty, Service, Prayer,
Sacrifice = Absolute emptiness, frustration and condemnation.**

Habakkuk. 2:4

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright within him;
But **the just shall live by his faith.**"

Luther Began to See What Had Always Been There

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith;
as it is written, "**The just shall live by faith.**"

Galatians 3:11

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**"

Hebrews 10:38

Now **the just shall live by faith;**
But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

**Notice That It Is;
“His” faith. The personal, possessive and independent faith
that a person has in the redemptive power of God.**

Habakkuk. 2:4

**“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright within him;
But the just shall live by his faith.**

“Who Told You About Heaven?”

6.) Will your faith get you to heaven ?

6e.) What does it mean to have faith in God ?

first, we must define what faith is.

every human being not only exercises forms of faith on a daily basis, but we also depend upon others to “keep the faith” when it comes to placing a reservation or booking a date or an event.

**We employ faith whenever we have commitments or
make a promises or...**

But The Bible is the Ultimate Source Defining Faith

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is (shows) the reality of what we hope for;
it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

**This is universally true of us. We “hope for” that which we “long for”
But Here’s the Catch – Is your faith in Christ or in you and another?**

faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed.

It’s not your faith that empowers the person or the object. It is the person or the object that qualifies your faith. Why do you believe in what you do? Because your faith has been placed in someone or something that has proven to you to be worthy of your trust. That object has “proven” to you to be trustworthy.

From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion. Martin Luther, Commentary on Genesis.

Will Your Faith Get You To Heaven ?

6f.) How can you know if your faith is for real ?

The Bible Teaches That Faith is a Gift that is to be Received.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He **gave** the right to become children of God, **to those who believe** in His name:

Trust wholly in Christ; rely altogether on His sufferings; beware of seeking to be justified in any other way than by His righteousness. Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for salvation. There must be atonement made for sin according to the righteousness of God. The person to make this atonement must be God for man.

Theologian, John Wycliffe 1320-1384

How can you know if your faith is for real ?

(Is that your faith is in Jesus Christs' righteousness alone)

Romans 3:20-24

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. :21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

So the Bible says that you/we must "**Examine** yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. **Test** yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. **2 Corinthians 13:5**

Examine rgk: **peiraζzw peirazo**, *pi-rad'-zo*; to test, prove, endeavor, scrutinize. A word used by the 1st century Assayer (me'tal'lurgy) to examine by the acid test. "in mining it refers to acid washing the elements of a claim."

"I'm having these thoughts"

(pour the acid of the Word on those thoughts)

"I'm having this issue"

(pour the acid of the Word over the issues)

"I'm wondering about this opportunity"

(pour the acid of the Word on your decision making process)

**All that to say – there will be supernatural characteristics
(fruit) that will be external, observable coming forth from your life and lifestyle.**

Here's the Test.

- There will be a genuine love for God.**
- There will be a genuine hatred of personal sin.**
- There will be a genuine humility.**
- There will be a genuine devotion to God.**
- There will be a genuine mindset of conversation (prayer)**
- There will be a genuine servanthood (others)**
- There will be a genuine separation from the world.**
- There will be a genuine spiritual development. (growth)**
- There will be a genuine obedience (practical love)**
- There will be a genuine enthusiasm (proper use of personality)**

“But Pastor Jack, God is Loving and God is Gracious”

True – but the Bible knows nothing of this kind of theology. It teaches that God's love and grace does not apply to such a lifestyle.

1 John 2:3-6, 15-17, 29

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. **5** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked., **:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. **17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever., **:29** If you know that he is righteous, you know that every one that **practices righteousness** is born of him.

#1

are you now continuously aware of His presence in your thoughts & consciousness?

#2

When temptation, trials, fears and hardship come your way, Is your first and immediate response to run toward Him for protection and Security?

#3

Do you find yourself both satisfied and hungry at the same time for more of Him are you now by nature driven to Him and His word for answers and guidance?

#4

Can you now really only be comforted, made peaceful by what His Bible has to say to you personally?

Unless we are thoroughly convinced that without Christ we are under the eternal curse of God, as the worst of His enemies, we shall never flee to Him for refuge.

Pastor John Owen 1616-1683

Will Your Faith Get You To Heaven ?

6g.) Why does God require a personal faith from you ?

Habakkuk 2:4b

But the just shall live by **his** faith.

just grk: δι-καίος dikaios, dik'-ah-yos; to be declared innocent, to be positioned, placed, to be announced just or justified.

shall grk: ἔσονται es'-om-ahee those who will, who must, who do by virtue, act, pursuit, the desires of one's new nature.

live grk: ζῶω zao, dzah'-o; to be **quicken**ed to life. to **become** alive. the meaning implies to "come to life for the **first time**"

faith: grk πι-στίς pistis, pis'-tis; to lean upon, rest upon, to sit with the utmost confidence. It is an exclusive reliance upon Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation;

The thief had nails through both hands, so that he could not work; and a nail through each foot, so that he could not run errands for the Lord; he could not lift a hand or a foot toward his salvation, and yet Christ offered him the gift of God; and he took it. Christ threw him a passport, and took him into Paradise.

American Evangelist, D. L. Moody. 1837-1899

"The just shall live by faith"

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a5/Schlosskirche-Wittenberg.jpg>

To express his concerns over the abuse of the people and the offense of the word of God, Martin Luther nailed a written statement of works, known as the 95 Critics or Theses, on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany on **October 31, 1517**. In so doing, he articulated what the masses had felt, feared and lived under. Luther's stand put in motion a spiritual awakening known as "The Reformation". As a result, the common man for the first time was now able to access the Bible and to read it and study it and thereby discover God for oneself. This revelation of truth, this renaissance paved the way for the age of enlightenment which transformed Europe and the West and ultimately the world itself.

Romans 10:17

So then **faith** comes by **hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.

Everything About God is Personal.

Have you noticed that when man-plays-god, everything is collective. It's a mass gathering of yes-lings. It's a common assembly of the same.

Cults and Communism will always crush personal individuality and personal faith in Almighty God.

Only a personal faith in Christ can benefit you, This is all important because

Only a personal faith in Christ can assist others, this increases because

Only a personal faith in Christ can endure to the end.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man **is not** justified by the works of the law **but by** faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified **by** faith in Christ and **not by** the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

It is not thy hold on Christ that saves thee; it is Christ. It is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee; it is Christ. It is not even thy faith in Christ, though that be the instrument; it is Christ's blood and merit.

Pastor Charles H. Spurgeon 1834-1892

Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways; He is the only way.

A. W. Tozer – 1897-1963

“The just shall live by faith”

If you **are** a Christ Follower today, it means that *you trust in Him and His power to save you plus nothing.*

“The just shall live by faith”

If you are **almost** a Christ Follower today, it means that *you are impressed by the Gospel. It's a beautiful sentiment. It even makes you feel good about yourself.*

“The just shall live by faith”

If you are **not** a Christ Follower today, it means that *God says and God sees your sins tied around your ankles like great weights to a net. The moment He grants you your last breath you will be alone, on your own - - being pulled down into a black pit, bottomless and dark, forever falling! And should you attempt to untie the weights, you'll discover that your arms are too short and your fingers too weak to escape.*

The Reason for the Cross / The Work of the Christ / The Need to make the Call.

End of Study

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