

## When Does Faith Save?

The Bible teaches that one cannot be saved without genuine faith in Jesus as the Christ, the son of God (Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31). Jesus said, “. . . for if you believe not that I am he, you will die in your sins (John 8:24).” But faith alone will not save, for Jesus said to some believers, “You are of your father the devil (John 8:30-31, 44).”

Furthermore, John writes, “Even of the rulers many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue (John 12:42).” The word *on* in this scripture is from the same word that is translated in or *on* in John 3:16. They believed on Jesus, but they were still lost, because they refused to confess Jesus. Paul wrote, “. . . with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:10).”

When does faith save us? The Bible gives a direct answer:

- One’s faith saves when that faith works through love (Gal.5:6).
- One’s faith saves when the person obeys the commands of God (1 John 5:3).
- One’s faith saves when there is an “obedience of faith.” Paul wrote of the “obedience of faith” at the beginning and at the end of the book of Romans (Rom. 1:5; Rom. 16:26-27).
- One’s faith saves when it has works. James wrote, “Even so, faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself (James 2:17).” James further explained, “You see that by works a man is justified and not only by faith (James 2:24).”
- One’s faith saves when it leads the person to obey the gospel (Rom. 6:16-18; Rom 6:1-5). The scriptures clearly state the steps to obeying the gospel. One must believe in Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 16:30-31). This faith must lead to personal repentance (Acts 2:38). The person must confess Christ with the mouth (Rom. 10:9-10). The person must be baptized unto the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21).
- Finally, faith saves when the person is “faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).”
- When does faith save? When one completes his total obligation to God and His Son Jesus Christ. The New Testament (will) is a contract with no cancellation clause. One must obey it in all of its parts.