

THE TRUTH against ERRORS

By

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Scriptural verses are drawn from different Bible versions. Bible verses are italicized.

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The Faith That Saves

Many people “believe” in God. Filthy sinners “believe” in God. Filthy “Christians” “believe” in God. Even demons “believe” in God. From the scriptures, we know that anyone who believes in the Son of God will be saved (John 3.16-18). At the same time, from the same scriptures, we know that not everyone who calls Jesus Christ, LORD, will be saved (Mathew 7.21). Some “believe” but they will not be saved while others believe, and they will be saved. There is a faith that is dead faith. There is another faith that is true faith. Dead faith does not give salvation. True faith gives salvation. What is the true faith?

True faith in God is living and active. Living faith bears fruit. Faith in God is not only felt and spoken but is action oriented. True faith in God is evidenced by obedience and love. Faith without works of love is dead. Faith in God means to believe with your entire being that the LORD Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Way to the Heavenly Father, the true Shepherd and, the King of kings and LORD of Lords (Romans 10.9-10, Rev 19.20, John 10.11,36).

Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world

Jesus Christ saves mankind from sin and death (Mathew 1.21). Those who believe in Him as Savior go to Him in repentance for the forgiveness of their sins and, power to stop sinning. During the time of the LORD’s earthly life, the people of Israel “believed” in God, but their kind of faith could not save them. John the Baptist challenged the people to believe in God by bearing fruit of repentance. John the Baptist preached the faith of repentance (Mathew 3.2, Acts 13.24, 19.4). The LORD Jesus preached the faith of repentance (Mathew 4.17). Repentance for the forgiveness of sins is the gospel that leads one into the kingdom of God (Luke 24.47). A true believer bears the fruit of

repentance (Mathew 3.8, Acts 26.20). The one who has truly believed is the one who has repented from his sinful way of life.

Repentance is the faith that saves.

Any other faith that does not produce the fruit of repentance is dead faith. Faith that does not cause one to stop sinning is dead faith. If you believe in God and are still sinning, or having the tendency to sin, then you have not believed at all.

It is only on the grounds of the faith of repentance that one really becomes part of the church of Christ. It is only on the base of the faith of repentance that one can be given water baptism (Mathew 3.11, Acts 2.38 ISV). Without repentance, there is no water baptism. John the Baptist preached repentance unto baptism. A repentant sinner receives forgiveness from God and cleansing in the blood of Christ (Acts 3.19).

Jesus is the way, the truth, and life

Jesus is the only One that can lead man to the heavenly kingdom. No one can get to the Heavenly Father except through Him. Anyone who rejects Him has rejected the Heavenly Father. Those who believe in Him as the way to the Father follow Him. He is the reconciliation between men and the Heavenly Father (Romans 5.10-11). This reconciliation brings:

Peace and Joy: The believer finds a profound peace and joy after receiving forgiveness of his sins. He begins to offer praises to God for salvation.

Awakened conscience: The believer's conscience gets awakened. He is no longer comfortable with sin.

Hunger for God's word: The new believer starts to have a hunger for spiritual food (the word of God).

Desire to obey God: The new believer begins to obey God's word.

Those who believe in Him as truth and life lean on Him for knowledge and life.

Jesus Christ is LORD and king

He is the LORD and king over all. Those who believe that He is LORD of Lords and King of kings submit to Him and obey Him. Those who obey Him will inherit the kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ is the true Shepherd and only Master

Jesus Christ is the one who leads man to perfect restoration. He who seeks perfection must follow Him daily in total self-denial, obedience and trust. His disciples must keep their eyes on Him.

Jesus Christ is holy

He is the holy One. A true believer must deny sin and pursue holiness. Only those who live after righteousness and holiness belong to Him. He died to save us from our sins so that we can be holy as He is. To believe in Him means to take after His righteousness and holiness. To believe in Him means to change ones' mind, deeds, and desires to His.

Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our Faith

The LORD Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Our faith is on a journey. The journey starts when we repent of our sins in faith that Jesus is the Way to the Heavenly Father and the Savior of the world. Our faith progresses when we deny ourselves and follow Him as the Master and Shepherd of our souls. Our faith reaches completion when in sufferings, we obey him perseveringly till the end even at the cost of our lives.

Salvation

What is Salvation?

Salvation means to save from sin/evil and its consequences. Salvation is the process of saving man from sin and death (consequence of sin). The salvation process begins with the forgiveness of sins, to attaining holiness and, ends with overcoming the second death at the last judgement. Salvation is in two stages:

- 1) Salvation from Sin
- 2) Salvation from Death

Salvation from Sin

Salvation from sin is the justification and sanctification of man.

Justification: This is the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation of man to God by faith in the LORD Jesus. The man who has been reconciled to God is called righteous. The LORD Jesus was punished for the sin of the world. He is the reconciliation between man and God. Man was separated from God and was doomed to die because of sin. For man to reunite with God, sin must be taken away. The LORD received the punishment for us all. In His name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins is preached to all mankind.

Sanctification: Sanctification is the complete restoration of man from sin & the sinful nature. It is the process of changing man's sinful nature to God's holy nature. The sinful nature is not taken away at once when we first believe (when we obtain justification), only our past sins are washed away. Our sinful nature is taken off gradually as we walk with Christ and follow Him daily. Those who follow Him receive power to deal away with

the sinful nature (Romans 6.12-14). The purpose of sanctification is to make man perfectly holy. The man who has been sanctified is called holy.

Salvation from second death

The unrighteous and filthy will be punished by death in the lake of fire after the white throne judgement. Only those whose names are found in the book of life will be saved from the second death in the lake of fire. Those whose names are in the book of life are holy and righteous people. Sin leads unto death. To be saved from death, man needs to be saved from sin. The LORD will resurrect to life, the righteous people true to Him. The sinners will die.

By His grace, every believer must fearfully work out his salvation and dominate sin and be victorious over death (Phil 2.12). Believers must put off the old sinful nature and put on the new holy nature. Salvation is guaranteed to the holy.

Is salvation from the second death guaranteed once we believe?

Believing in the LORD Jesus at one point in your life does not guarantee salvation from death. It is believing in the LORD Jesus till the end that guarantees salvation from death (Mat 11.22).

He who believes in the LORD Jesus has stopped sinning and lives to obey God. If a believer at any time in his life stops believing, that is, he goes back to sinning, he may lose his salvation because his name will be removed from the book of life (Rev 3.7). Yes, God removes names from the book of life. The LORD Jesus will give eternal salvation only to those who obey Him till the end (Hebrews 5.9). We repent from our sins unto holiness that leads to eternal life.

Will all righteous people be saved from the second death?

Not all righteous people will be saved but all holy people will be saved.

For it is time for judgement to begin with God's household, and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? (1 Peter 4.17-18NIV)

Every act of disobedience is a sin. Yet, it is not all sins that lead unto death (1 John 5.15-17). The sins that leads unto death (Rev 21.6-8, 22.15) include:

Refusal to believe in the LORD Jesus (for those who heard of Him)

Sorcery/witchcraft

Murder

Hypocrisy and being untruthful

All sexual sins

Idolatry (includes greed – Col 3.5)

Not all righteous people will inherit salvation, but all holy people will. A believer who has not yet attained perfection in holiness can still be saved by the LORD from death if he does not remain in the above deadly sins. A believer who still engages in these filthy practices will die with the unrighteous (Romans 8.12-13). The LORD Jesus will fetch out of His kingdom all righteous people who are bad (Mathew 1.47-50). Yes, a believer can be bad.

A sick believer who has not committed any of these deadly sins can call for the elders of the church to pray for his healing. The LORD God will hear their prayer and he will be well again. However, if a believer has committed a deadly sin, he will not be restored to health no matter the number of petitions made to the LORD except the sinful believer confesses and repents of His sin and is cleansed by the blood of Christ.

The sole purpose of the death of the LORD Jesus was to take away sins. We must be careful to avoid the deadly sins, as well as, pursue complete restoration from sin through obedience. Only those who are completely restored (perfect in holiness) will become the bride of Christ (Eph 5.27).

Believers who continue in filthy sins will have their names removed from the book of life (Rev 3.2-5, Heb 10.26-29).

Being Born Again

To be born again means to become a new man. To become a new man means to become like Christ. Being born again is a process. It begins when a man first believes in the LORD Jesus Christ and ends when he becomes like Christ in nature and works. A believer who still commits sinful acts or behaves/thinks in a way that is not Christlike is not yet fully born again. As Christ is, in nature (holy, faithful and loving, etc.), so are we to be in this world. To be born again means to be born of both water and spirit. Some may have been born of water, but they are still to be born of spirit.

*Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again from above." Nicodemus said, "How can there be rebirth for a grown man? Who could go back to his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you: **No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit** (John 3.3-6).*

Born of Water

A man becomes born of water when he first believes in Jesus Christ and is reconciled to God. The man receives the life of the eternal God into his Spirit and, his dead spirit comes alive. This living spirit though not yet changed in nature begins to sense a closeness to God. This living spirit, though not yet new, begins to desire spiritual things. Such a man is a living man, but he is not yet a new man because his sinful nature still dominates.

The word of God is water. It cleanses the human heart when received in faith (Acts 15.9). A person who hears the word of God and does not believe with his heart cannot experience this cleansing. It is the word of God received in faith that causes a man to be

born of water (1 Peter 1.23, Eph 5.26). A person who is born of water receives the life of the eternal God into his heart (Titus 3.5). This life is like a well, welling up to eternal life (John 4.14). Water baptism is an outward symbol of cleansing that has taken place within. It is also public declaration of the faith within.

We are born of water when we receive the word of God with faith (Ephesians 5.26). The living water washes us within and brings life inside of us (Acts 15.9). It is by this washing of water for rebirth that we become righteous (right standing with God). One who is born of water has received the first purification attained by obeying God's first command: to believe in His son, Jesus Christ (1 John 3.23). This is the first work that God requires of all men to do to be saved (John 6.28).

Born of Spirit

To be born of spirit means to put on God's nature. The old sinful nature goes away, and a believer puts on a new nature – the nature of Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a believer can become a new spirit with a new personality and character (God's character).

To be born of Spirit means a man has put off the old man (the old spirit) with his deeds and has put on the new man Christ Jesus with His deeds (Romans 13.14, Gal 3.27). To be born of Spirit means to be perfected in holiness (2 Corinthians 7.1 KJV). One who is born of Spirit has been transformed into the image of Christ and his spirit becomes like Christ's. He is completely different from his old self. His new spirit is Christlike. He no longer commits sin because he is now like Christ - the sinless one. He bears the full testimony of 2 Corinthians 5.17: *Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.*

Those who carry the cross of self-denial and discipleship are the ones on the path that leads to the perfection in spirit. Not every believer gets to be a disciple because not every believer is willing to pay the price. It is by obedience that we purify ourselves into being born of spirit. We are changed daily in our spirits as we follow the LORD daily till, we attain perfection.

We must die in order to become truly born again. *“Truly, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much fruit”*. It is by carrying the cross of self-denial that a believer will be born of spirit. The new man (born of Spirit) no longer has the tendency to sin because he has put on the loving nature of Christ (1 John 4.7). To be born of water can be instantaneous but becoming born of spirit takes some time and it demands total cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

The seed of life implanted in our hearts at conversion makes us connected to God, but the seed needs to grow and bear fruits to make us sons of God. When the seed of human life (male sperm) is deposited in a woman’s womb, she becomes pregnant. That seed needs to undergo a nine months transformation to become fully human and be born on the earth. Receiving the word of God (the seed) in faith will make a man to be born of water, but he must undergo a transformation process for a change of nature in spirit.

To be born of Spirit means to become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5.21). We become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus when God’s righteousness is revealed through our new Christlike person. When we have put on Christ Jesus and His works, we become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus because God’s righteous nature is seen through our new nature.

The Grace of God

The grace of God does not mean that salvation is guaranteed once we “believe” irrespective of our deeds. On the day of judgement, all men shall be judged by their deeds (Rev 20.11-15). The grace of God does not mean that God will not punish the righteous who commit willful and filthy sins. The wrath of God hangs on all ungodliness (Romans 1.18, Romans 2.5-8).

The grace of God is the love and strength of God enabling man to believe and obey the righteous demands of the Law of God in Christ Jesus and eventually save himself from sin and death unto eternal life.

The Grace of God is the death of His Son for the pardon of the sin of the world and the reconciliation of the world to God.

The more a man grows in grace (divine enablement), the closer he gets to perfection.

The Grace of God leads man unto repentance. God is willing to forgive all men in Christ Jesus, but man is forgiven only when he repents of his sinful living (Mark 1.4, Luke 5.32, Luke 24.47, Acts 2.38, Acts 3.19, Acts 5.31, Acts 8.28, Acts 11.18, Acts 26.20). The fruit of repentance is man turning away from sinful deeds. Repentance and receiving forgiveness from God are inseparable. Only those who have received forgiveness will be saved from his wrath. The LORD Jesus is going to punish sinful believers (Mathew 13.41, Mathew 13.24-30, Mathew 7.22-23). The LORD will send out His angels to weed out of His kingdom, the scandalous and evil (Mathew 13.41).

The Grace of God leads man to perfection. A man who is full of the grace of God is a man who no longer commits sins and has put on God’s holy nature and works.

The Law

God does not set people free for them to live lawlessly. Grace is not lawlessness. The new covenant does not mean no laws.

Are the New Covenant People free from the law of God?

Certainly Not!

Christians are not under the old Mosaic Law (the laws of the Old Covenant), but they are under the law of Christ. The lawless or lawbreakers have no part in the kingdom of God (Mathew 7.23, 2 Peter 3.17, 1 John 3.4).

To those not having the law, I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law (1 Corinthians 9.21NIV).

Do we, then, deny the value of the Law because of what we say of faith? Of course not, rather we place the Law in its proper place (Romans 3.31)

God hated sin in the past and He still hates sin today. God often chastised Israel for disobeying His laws.

The LORD warned all lawbreakers and all people who teach others to sin (Mathew 5.17-19). The LORD Jesus did not come to destroy but to fulfill the law. Jesus Christ did not fulfill the law by obeying its letter. He fulfilled the law by obeying the spirit of the law – the law of love. By His death on the cross, the love of God was poured on mankind.

The LORD Jesus taught the people the spirit of the law and not just the letter. He renewed the law on murder, marriage, the law of eye for an eye, love etc.

In the old law, killing someone was a sin of murder. The LORD renewed the law on murder: anyone who is angry with his brother for no just cause or anyone who humiliates his brother and insult him is a murderer and such a one is in danger of being brought before trial and sent to hell (Mathew 5.21-24).

In the old law, divorce was granted for any reason by simply giving the divorcee a writ of divorce. The LORD renewed the law on divorce: anyone who divorces his wife for any other reason than sexual immorality or illicit marriage, is guilty of adultery and any man who marries a divorced woman is guilty of adultery. If a married man looks at a woman with lust in his heart, he has committed adultery (Mathew 5.27-28, 31-32).

In the old law, it was okay to hate your enemy and love those who love you. The LORD renewed the law on love: love your enemy, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who mistreat you, give to all who ask, lend without expecting any returns, strive not with the wicked, etc. Let the light of your love shine so that you can become children of God (Mathew 5.38-48).

The letter cannot cover every aspect of the spirit. The letter cannot deal with the things of the heart such as lust, anger, and hatred. Only the law of the spirit can cover things such as these because the spirit searches the deep things of a man's heart.

God's law was never taken away from man rather it was brought to its proper footing – the spirit of the law. The LORD Jesus summarized all the requirements of the law into one law (John 15.12, 17, Romans 13, 1 John 3.23, John 2.1-11).

"Now I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13.34).

The law of love is very deep and profound, and it cannot be completely broken down detailly into acts and written down. Love fulfills the law of Christ. It demands integrity in keeping your words rather than from swearing an oath. It refuses tooth for tooth or eye for eye rather it repays evil with good. It demands mercy and not judgement. The law of love covers the entire law of God and it can only be fulfilled in spirit and not in letter. Each circumstance we encounter in life demands us to operate in love. We cannot write

down every situation. It is by following the Spirit of Christ that we can walk in love in every circumstance and thus fulfill the law of God. The **fruit** of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5.22). The believer who bears this fruit satisfies the law of God.

Believers in Christ Jesus have been freed from the Old Covenant law system (written laws obeyed in human strength). Believers have been transferred to a new covenant law system, a living way, the way of the spirit.

*The time is coming - it is Yahweh who speaks - when I will forge a new covenant with the people of Israel and the people of Judah. It will not be like the one I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. For they broke my covenant although I was their LORD. This is the covenant I shall make with Israel after that time: **I will put my Law within them and write it on their hearts, I will be their God and they will be my people.** And they will not have to teach each other, neighbor or brother, saying: 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the greatest to the lowliest, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and no longer remember their sin." This is the word of Yahweh (Jeremiah 31.31-35).*

How do Christians fulfill the righteous demands of the law of Christ?

The new covenant operates in spirit and not tablets of stone or paper. It checks out the lust in a man's heart and not just the outward act of adultery. The righteous demands of the law are fulfilled in believers who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. If a believer does not walk after the Spirit of Christ, they cannot fulfill the requirements of the law because the flesh is too weak to obey God. If we do not operate in the power of the Holy Spirit, we cannot perfectly obey God even if we are willing.

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live (Romans 8.13)

Man cannot obey God perfectly in human strength. In the human nature, the law of sin operates and thus, it will stop man from obeying God (Romans 7.18-25).

The only way man can perfectly obey God is the divine power of Christ Jesus. We must be led by Him (His Spirit) and not by our human nature and tendencies. We must abide in Him and draw life from Him. It is His life that strengthens us to obey God. We must give up trying to obey God in our natural strength and look to His life deposited inside of us.

If a man continues to walk after the flesh and do its works and satisfy its desires, he shall surely die. We are set free (made righteous) to fight for our salvation by putting on holiness attained through the way of love (1 Peter 1.22, 1 Peter 4.8). We are set free to obey God and obtain the crown of life (James 1.11-12).

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