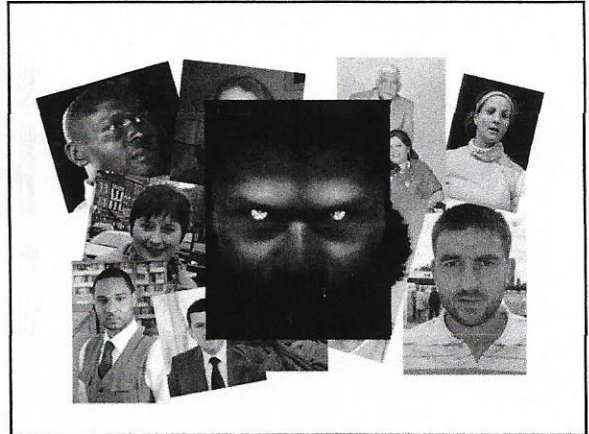


You Believe? So What?

The Nature of Biblical Belief and Faith



You believe that God is one; you do
well.
Even the demons believe – and
shudder.

James 2:19

You Believe? So What?

The Nature of Biblical Belief and Faith

Belief: What It Is and Is Not

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ◆ Not Agreement | ◆ Living |
| ◆ Not Words | ◆ Active |
| ◆ Not a Feeling | ◆ Motivating |
| ◆ Not Easy | ◆ Compelling |

Abraham

- ◆ Romans 4:1-12 (Genesis 15:6)
- ◆ Result of years of obedience
- ◆ Walking in faith

Abraham

Surely Abraham offered more than words!

Job

- ◆ James 5:11
- ◆ blameless, upright
- ◆ did not sin
- ◆ remained faithful (Job 1:22; 27:6)

Job

Job would not bend!

David

- ◆ 1 Samuel 13:14
 - ◆ after God's heart
 - ◆ profound spiritual failures (2 Sa. 11)
 - ◆ Persisted
 - ◆ wilderness
 - ◆ civil war
 - ◆ personal loss

David

David was a man of trust and obedience!

Saul / Paul

- ◆ 1 Corinthians 15:10
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 11:23
- ◆ Colossians 1:29
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 12:11
- ◆ 1 Timothy 1:15
- ◆ 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Saul / Paul

- ◆nothing
- ◆chief sinner
- ◆hard working
- ◆confident

Saul / Paul

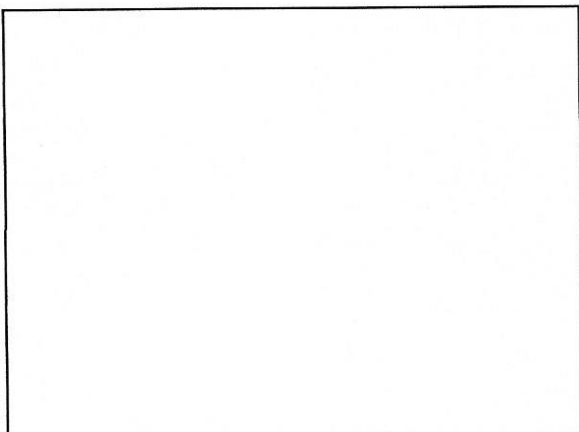
Paul worked because
he believed!

Self

- ◆Salvation
 - ◆Believe (Hebrews 11:6)
 - ◆Repent (Revelation 2:5)
 - ◆Confess (Romans 10:9)
 - ◆Baptism (Acts 2:38)
 - ◆Live Faithfully (James 2:14-26)

Self

What Can Be Said of Us?



You Believe?

James 2:19

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Romans 4:1–12

1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” 9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. 10 How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, 12 and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

James 5:11

Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

[Job 1:22](#)

In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

[Job 27:6](#)

I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

[1 Samuel 13:14](#)

But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

[1 Corinthians 15:10](#)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

[2 Corinthians 11:23](#)

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.

[Colossians 1:29](#)

For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

[2 Corinthians 12:11](#)

I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing.

[1 Timothy 1:15](#)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

[2 Timothy 4:6–8](#) [6](#) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7](#) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8](#) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

[Hebrews 11:6](#) And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

[Revelation 2:5](#) Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

[Romans 10:9](#) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

[Acts 2:38](#) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

[James 2:14–26](#) [14](#) What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? [15](#) If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16](#) and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? [17](#) So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. [18](#) But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19](#) You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20](#) Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

[21](#) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? [22](#) You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; [23](#) and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. [24](#) You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. [25](#) And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? [26](#) For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.