

*CALL to PRAYER* - Pray for the person in your bulletin...and for their faith. (Mark 9:24)

*Intro* - Our "*Definitions*" series has brought us to the great subject matter of *Faith*. Faith is vital. We are saved by faith. Faith doesn't save us, but it is the vehicle that get us to Christ who saves. Faith is the only way to be saved and the only way to please God (Heb. 11:6). In fact, Scripture says that anything that doesn't come from faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). If you are going to be saved, please God and sin less...need to have faith. But what is faith? How do you define it, recognize it, and how do you get it? Also, are there different kinds of faith - saving faith & a kind of faith that doesn't save? Today we are going to tackle the INGREDIENTS OF FAITH (saving faith). There are three essential ingredients to faith...you must have all three to have true saving faith. If there is only 1 or 2 then it is incomplete. A PB&J sandwich needs all three components for a real complete sandwich - peanut butter alone won't do... Out text today is ½ of one verse and it mentions three essential ingredients that make up saving faith - *Knowledge, Conviction & Trust*

## *2 Timothy 1:12 - Definitions (6) What is Faith?*

### *KNOWLEDGE*

- 2 Tim. 1:12b                    *"...I know whom I have believed..."*
  - Knowledge is an indispensable ingredient to saving faith.
  - It is impossible to believe without knowledge of what you are believing.
  - Rom. 10:14 - *"How can they believe in Him whom they have not heard?"*
  - *"We can believe only what we know."* Charles Hodge
- Faith begins with information.
  - The Christian faith rests on information from eyewitness testimony.
  - We have a big book of historical accounts...God's words recorded
  - The Apostles bore testimony of Jesus' life death & resurrection
    - Luke 1:1-2      John 20:30-31                    Acts 4:20      1 John 1:1
- There is a minimum amount of information required to have faith
  - Saving faith doesn't require a theological education but it does require information
  - Basic information about Jesus - who He is and what He did - John 17:3
    - ...and basic information about the bad state we are in as sinners
    - 1 Tim. 1:15
  - If you do not know what you believe then you don't believe. (2 Tim. 1:12)
  - Knowledge is essential to faith just like peanut butter is essential to a PB&J
    - But knowledge is not all there is to faith...other elements must be present

### *CONVICTION / PERSUASION*

- 2 Tim. 1:12                    *"...and I am convinced..."* (persuaded)
  - Being convinced that the information is true is crucial to faith. (Titus 1:1)
  - Faith is not just about facts (get test question right) it is being persuaded it is true

- Many Christian teachers could pass a test on the myth of evolution, but that doesn't mean that they *believe* in evolution.      You can know it without believing it
- Faith is being persuaded that the facts are true.      Convinced / firm conviction
- Hebrew word for belief = *aman*
  - Gen. 15:6 - *Abraham believed (aman) the LORD...*
  - Faith is saying "AMEN!" to God's promise & His testimony about His Son
    - Faith says, "Amen! Amen!      (It is true! It is true!)      and true for me
- There are a lot of unbelieving "believers" out there who are not persuaded...
  - ...Not persuaded of Jesus': Deity (Creator)...Virgin birth...Miraculous life... Substitutionary death... glorious resurrection...promised return....
  - There are many Bible teachers, preachers, seminary professors who do not believe the Bible. They do not believe God...His Word...testimony      (1 John 5:10)
    - They have knowledge of God's Word but no faith...not persuaded
  - If you are not convinced...firmly persuaded that the things recorded in Scripture are true .... then you do not have saving faith
    - 1 Thess. 2:13      2 Thess. 2:13
- *"By faith a Christian believeth whatsoever is revealed in the Word."* (1689 / Philadelphia - 14.2)
  - 2 Tim. 1:12      *"I know whom I have believed and am persuaded..."*
  - Knowledge & conviction are essential (like PB&J)
    - But 2 out of 3 won't cut it if you are going to have a saving faith sandwich
    - A 3<sup>rd</sup> element must bring it all together.

### **COMMITMENT / TRUST**

- ❖ 2 Tim. 1:12      *"...what I have entrusted..."*      (committed)
  - Trust is the bread that brings the knowledge & persuasion all together into one
  - "Faith" without commitment & trust is not saving faith.
  - You can know the facts...be convinced the facts are true...but still not have faith.
    - Faith is trusting in Christ and in Christ alone...being committed to HIM
- ❖ Acts 26 - Paul before King Agrippa
  - Acts 26:1-3 - Agrippa was an expert on the information (he had knowledge)
  - Agrippa heard the apostolic testimony - Acts 26:19-23
  - Agrippa knew it was true - Acts 26:26-27
  - Agrippa "believed" but he was not a Christian - he had not faith (Acts 26:28)
- ❖ *"Faith is the believing abandonment of ourselves to Christ."* Waldron
  - Faith is trusting in Christ; not yourself      (Faith is trusting in what He did not what we do)
    - Not yourself...religion...baptism...church attendance...giving...deeds...
    - **Faith puts not confidence in the flesh but all confidence in Christ**
  - People who think their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds do not have a saving faith because they are trusting in themselves. (believe in themselves)
- ❖ Life commitment - *"I sinner take you Jesus as my Savior - To love and obey for better or for worse; in sickness and in health; for richer or for poorer; forsaking all others and cleaving only unto You until death do us unite.*      2 Timothy 1:12b