

Sunday Evening, March 29, 2020  
WCF XIV. - *Of Saving Faith*

1. The grace of faith, by which the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily produced through the ministry of the Word. This faith is increased and strengthened by the same means, and also by the administration of the sacraments and prayer.
2. By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatever is revealed in the Word, because of the authority of God himself speaking in it. He also responds differently to what each particular passage contains—obeying the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.
3. This faith varies in degrees. It may be weak or strong. It may often, and in many ways, be assailed and weakened, but it gains the victory. It matures in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and perfecter of our faith.

I. Path to Faith Sect 1

A. Faith Is the Gift of God

1. Faith Is Given by God; it Is Not Natural  
2 Thess. 3:2; Eph. 2:1; 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Jn. 6:44, 45; Rom. 4:16  
Rom. 11:6; Jn. 6:29; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8, 9; Ac. 13:48
2. Faith Is Our Response; it Is Not Divine Eph. 1:19

B. Faith Is the Result of the Word

1. Faith Is Produced Through the Word 1 Pet 1:23–25; Rom. 10:13–16; Ac. 16:14; 1 Thess. 1:5
2. Faith Is Strengthened Through the Word

II. Character of Faith Sect 2; John 1:12; Ac 16:31; Gal 2:20; Ac 15:11

A. Faith Has an Object

1. Faith Rests upon the Truth of Scripture  
Jn. 5:31–37; 3:33; 1 Jn. 5:10; 5:9; 1 Cor 2:1; Heb. 2:4; Rom 8:16; Heb. 10:5  
Rom. 3:22, 25; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9; Jn. 3:18, 19; 8:24; Jn. 20:31; Ac 24:14
2. Faith Rests upon the Person of Christ, Christ Revealed in His Word.  
Jn. 17:3; Rom. 4:3; Rom. 4:5; Jn. 5:24; Jn. 1:12; Ac. 16:31

B. Faith Requires a Response

1. Faith Is a Response of the Mind: Assent
2. Faith Is a Response of the Will: Responds Heb. 11:8, 9
3. Faith Is a Response of the Whole Inner Person: Trusts  
Jn. 6:35; Isa. 55:22; Jn. 1:12; Heb. 6:18; Gen 15:1; Heb. 11:11; Eph. 3:12

III. Degrees of Faith Sect 3

A. It Is Freeing to Understand: We Are Never Saved “Because of Faith”

B. It Is Fatal to Suppose That Faith Is the One Thing We Offer for Salvation

1. Then We’ve Reintroduced Works Righteousness Gal 4:21–5:12
2. Then We’ve Changed the Focus *to What Is Inside of You*, Rather than on Christ Jn. 6:37

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Quotes

“Strictly speaking, the true Christian church does not teach justification by faith. It teaches justification by Christ. Where does faith come in? It is simply the uniting with, the joining with, becoming one with the Lord Jesus Christ.”  
Gerstner

“Faith clasps Christ, as a ring clasps its jewel.”  
Luther

FAITH: Forsaking All I Trust Him.  
Gerstner

“Faith is not work, nor merit, nor effort; but the cessation from all these, and the acceptance in place of them of what another has done—done completely and forever.”  
Horatius Bonar

“Saving faith is the hand. . . the eye. . . the mouth. . . and the foot of the soul.”  
J.C. Ryle

“It is from its **object** that faith derives its value... the saving power of faith resides thus not in itself, but in the Almighty Savior on whom it rests... it is not faith that saves, but faith in Jesus Christ... it is not strictly speaking, even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ that saves through faith.”  
B.B. Warfield

"Strong faith in a weak plank will land you in the river/ but weak faith in a strong plank will get you across the bridge."  
Paul Little

“It is not the strength of faith, but the perfection of the sacrifice, that saves; and no feebleness of faith, no dimness of eye, no trembling of hand, can change the efficacy of our burnt-offering.”  
Horatius Bonar