

## Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 14: Saving Faith

### Introduction

“Saving faith is a saving grace (Eph. 2:8 Phil. 1:29), whereby we receive (John 1:12; Col. 2:6) and rest upon Him alone (John 3:16, 18, 36; 1 John 5:12, 13), as He is offered in the gospel (John 20:30, 31; 2 Cor. 11:4), for salvation from sin and its consequences (Matt. 1:21; 1 Tim. 1:15).”

It is the hand that receives Christ (John 1:12), the eye that looks to Christ (John 3:14, 15), the soul that eats and drinks of Christ (John 7:37). It is the soul coming to Christ (John 6:35).

### I. The Source of Saving Faith (Par. 1)

A. Divine Agent of its Bestowal: *“The grace of faith enables the elect to believe so that their souls are saved; it is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts.”* (John 6:37, 44; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29)

B. Instrumental Means of its Bestowal and Nurture: *“Faith is ordinarily produced by the ministry of the Word. By this same ministry and by the administration of baptism and the Lord’s supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, faith is increased and strengthened.”* (Rom. 1:11, 12; 10:14, 17; 1 Pet. 2:2; Jude 20)

### II. The Acts of Saving Faith (Pars. 2, 3)

A. Saving Faith embraces the infallibility and the excellency of the Scriptures. *“By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God Himself. They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world, because it displays the glory of God in His attributes, the excellence of Christ in His nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in His activities and operations. So they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed.”* (1 Thess. 2:13; 1 John 4:6)

B. Saving Faith responds appropriately to everything in the Scriptures. *“They respond differently according to the content of each particular passage—obeying the commands, trembling at the threatening, and embracing the promises of God for this life and the one to come.”* (Is. 66:2; John 14:15; 15:14)

C. Saving Faith principally trusts in Christ alone for salvation from sin. *“But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ—accepting, receiving, and resting upon Him alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.”* (Gal. 2:20)

### III. The Distinctiveness of Saving Faith (Par. 3)

#### A. The Fact of its Distinctiveness

1. The Fact Qualified: *“This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong...Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened...”* (Matt. 8:10, 26)

2. The Fact Asserted: *“Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature (like all other saving graces) from the faith and common grace of temporary believers.”*

B. The Fruit of its Distinctiveness: *“...but it gains the victory. It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ, who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith.”* (Heb. 10:22; 1 John 5:4)

### Summary and Conclusion

1) Par. 1: What does the fact that the HS works faith in our hearts through the word, ordinances, prayer, and other things mean for us in the practical realm?

2) Par. 2: How are we responding to God’s Word?

3) Par. 3: Is our faith distinctly saving?