

Deuteronomy 30:19-20
(ESV)

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

From Martin Luther’s 95 theses:

1. **When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.**
2. This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
3. Yet it **does not mean solely inner repentance**; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various **outward mortification of the flesh.**
4. **The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self (that is, true inner repentance), namely till our entrance into the kingdom of heaven.**

Deuteronomy 12:8
(ESV)

8 “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes,

Exodus 3:14
(ESV)

14 And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5
(ESV)

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

1 Timothy 2:5
(ESV)

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

John Murray (1898-1975, Scottish; taught at Princeton and helped found Westminster Theological Seminary) in *Redemption — Accomplished and Applied* (p. 134):

Faith is “a whole-souled movement of self-commitment to Christ for salvation from sin and its consequences...” which has three components: “knowledge, conviction and trust” (p. 133-140).

So, again, we have the idea that **faith is more than just a statement, just as with repentance.**

Faith regards a change in commitment and engenders a change in behavior.

“Conviction” implies a change in behavior.

“Trust” is better replaced with “fealty” or “allegiance.”

Matthew W. Bates, an early New Testament and language scholar (Quincy University, Illinois) translates the Greek word used for “faith” in the New Testament (*pistis*) as “allegiance.”

“Allegiance” has a connotation much greater than a simple statement of faith.

This does not mean that our current translations of *pistis* as “faith” is wrong, but perhaps that we do not define “faith” in a comprehensive enough way.

“faith...belief...trust...” include what is most vital for salvation: “...mental assent, sworn fidelity, and embodied loyalty” (p.5).

“Allegiance”

“Final salvation is not about attainment of heaven but about embodied participation in the new creation” (p. 9).

**Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 7 - Of God's Covenant With Man
Paragraph 3**

3. Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace: wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

**Romans 3:20-21
(KJV)**

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets

**Romans 8:3
(KJV)**

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

**Galatians 3:21
(KJV)**

*Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if there had been a law given which could have given life**, verily righteousness should have been by the law.”*

**John 3:16
(KJV)**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Rom. 10:6, 9
(KJV)**

*But the **righteousness which is of faith** speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall*

ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)...9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

**Galatians 3:11
(KJV)**

*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith**.*

**1 Corinthians 12:3-11
(ESV)**

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Galatians 5:22
(ESV)**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**Ephesians 2:8
(ESV)**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

**1 Corinthians 2:5
(ESV)**

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

**Romans 10:9
(ESV)**

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.

**Colossians 1:23
(ESV)**

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

**1 Timothy 1:5
(ESV)**

5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**Romans 1:1-5
(ESV)**

Greeting

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,

called to be an apostle,

set apart for the gospel of God,

2 which he promised beforehand

through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

3 concerning his Son,

who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power

according to the Spirit of holiness

by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship

to bring about the obedience of faith

for the sake of his name among all the nations,

**Romans 1:16-17
(ESV)**

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

**1 Corinthians 15:1-8
(ESV)**

The Resurrection of Christ

*15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

**Acts 3:19-21
(ESV)**

19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Acts 2:36

(ESV)

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Matthew 4:17

(ESV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

1 John 3:2

(ESV)

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Romans 10:5-13

(ESV)

The Message of Salvation to All

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. 6 But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 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. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 14:7-8

(ESV)

7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then,

whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

1 Corinthians 8:6

(ESV)

6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Philippians 2:9-11

(ESV)

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 12:8

(ESV)

Acknowledge Christ Before Men

8 “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,

Romans 1:5

(ESV)

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the **obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations,

Romans 16:25-26

(ESV)

Doxology

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

Romans 15:18-19

(ESV)

18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me

to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

1 Timothy 6:12
(ESV)

12 **Fight** the good fight of the faith. **Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called** and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Matthew 7:21-23
(ESV)

I Never Knew You

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Luke 3:3-14
(ESV)

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a **baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

5
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

6
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 **Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.** And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees.

Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “**What then shall we do?**” 11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “**Teacher, what shall we do?**” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “**And we, what shall we do?**” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”