

Back to the Basics

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 25

1. THE PREACHED WORD: The Holy Spirit works _____ in our _____ by the preaching of the Holy Gospel

a. Faith is a _____ of _____.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)

b. God ordinarily uses the _____ of the _____ to give us faith.

¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ... ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:14-17)

2. THE SACRAMENTS: The Holy Spirit _____ our faith by the _____ of the holy sacraments.

a. Sacraments are _____ and _____ of God's promises.

He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith (Romans 4:11a)

b. It may seem obvious, but we must emphasize: God uses the sacraments to confirm our faith "by our _____ of _____."

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? (1 Corinthians 10:16-18)

3. FOCUS OUR FAITH: Seek by faith the _____ of God's _____ to you in Christ and by the Holy Spirit through his word and sacraments.

a. Don't be afraid of the word "_____."

b. The goal and purpose of both the word and the sacraments are to _____ us to _____.

c. All of this is spiritually _____: in the preaching of the gospel, God _____ his promises to you, and in the sacraments he _____ those same promises – *to you*.