

Westminster Confession of Faith 14 - Of Saving Faith

“For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

~ Hebrews 10:36-39 ~

Introduction

A. Definition

1. WSC 86 - “Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.”
2. A.A. Hodge: “Saving faith is that spiritual discernment of the excellence and beauty of divine truth, and that cordial embrace and acceptance of it, which are wrought in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.”

B. Components

1. Knowledge
2. Assent
3. Trust

“Faith is the simple rolling of a wounded, bleeding heart, upon a wounded, bleeding Savior; it is the simple reception of the amazing truth, that Jesus died for the ungodly - died for *sinners* - died for the poor, the vile, the bankrupt; that he invites and welcomes to his bosom all poor, convinced, heavy-laden sinners.”

- Octavius Winslow

I. The Origin of Faith

A. The Agent: The Holy Spirit

1. Faith is not natural to fallen humanity
2. Faith is a sovereign gift
 - a. Gift of Sovereign Power
 - b. Gift of Sovereign Grace
3. Faith results in God's Glory

B. The Means: Word, Sacrament, Prayer

1. Word, Especially the Word
2. Sacraments
3. Prayer

C. The Maintenance

II. The Life of Faith

A. The Object of Faith

1. General Faith
2. Particular Faith

B. The Responses of Faith

C. The Principal Acts of Saving Faith

1. Receive Christ
2. Rest upon Christ

III. The Battle of Faith

A. Diversity in Faith (subjectively)

B. Attacks upon Faith

“The grandeur of the arch of heaven would be spoiled if the sky were supported by a single visible column, and your faith would lose its glory if it rested on anything discernible by the carnal eye.”

- Charles Spurgeon

C. The Victory of Faith