

If Jesus were to return today . . .

as He has promised that He will someday, are you absolutely certain that you would spend eternity with Him in Heaven?

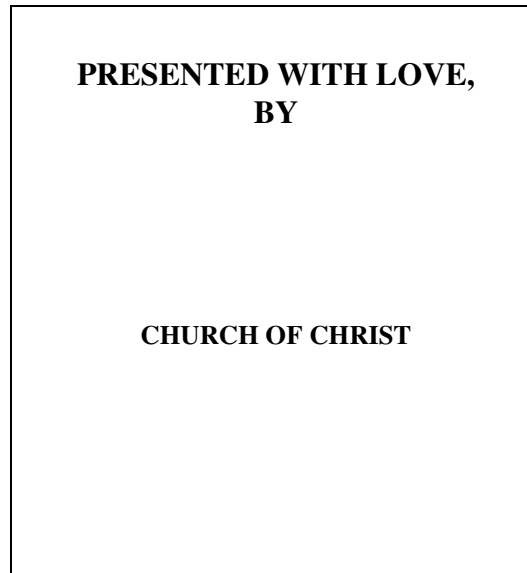
The Bible teaches that the only way to God is through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6), and that the only way to be saved is to obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9).

A willingness to do what God has instructed us to do is an indicator of true, living, active, and actual Biblical faith (James 2:17-18), and not a passive, dead, "faith only" that is common to demons and by which no one can be justified (James 2:19-26).

Compare what the following scriptures teach with your current condition and mark the responses that are appropriate to you.

Please contact us if you have questions, comments, or requests. It is our prayer that God will richly bless and reward your search for truth with a closer, fuller, and more blessed relationship with Him.

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
I will hear Jesus Matthew 17:5; Jn. 6:68-69; 14:15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will believe Him John 3:36; 8:24; Luke 6:46	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will repent of sin Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 7:10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will confess Christ Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:8-10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will be baptized Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 41; Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26-27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I will be faithful to Christ John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



*Saved By Faith
but Not By
Faith Only*



A Brief Bible Study
by Randall F. Matheny

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Many earnest, religious people believe that we are saved by faith only, and that we do not have to be obedient to the requirements of the Gospel to receive God's gift of salvation.

In order to conclude that obedience is unnecessary, it must first be proved from the New Testament that faith and obedience are not inclusive, and that they are mutually exclusive. In other words, it must be shown how faith cancels out obedience, or how obedience cancels out faith. What does the word of the Lord say about the matter?

The Scriptures teach that faith and obedience, as they relate to salvation, are not mutually exclusive, but that saving faith includes and incorporates obedience. Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17), faith cannot be evidenced apart from the works that are produced by it (Jas. 2:18), faith is made perfect (complete) by works (Jas. 2:22), and we are not saved by faith only (devoid of obedience) (Jas. 2:24). Examples are provided of Abraham, who was justified "when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar" (Jas. 2:21-24), and Rahab, who "when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way" (Jas. 2:25-26).

The letter to the Hebrews was written to Christians who were in imminent danger of falling away from Christ (Heb. 5:13-6:6), the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9). Hebrews chapter 11 defines Biblical, saving faith, by citing numerous examples to prove conclusively that the faith that is pleasing to

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God is obedient.

The apostle Paul stated that obedience to the faith was the object of his apostleship among the Gentiles (Rom. 1:5), and reminded the Roman Christians of the role that obedience played in their own receiving of God's gift of salvation (Rom. 6:1-23). He also warned that all who are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, will suffer indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish (Rom. 2:8-9), and that those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord (2 Thess. 1:8-9).

The reasonable conclusion is that faith and obedience are inclusive as they relate to the salvation of our souls. Faith without works is as dead today as it was two thousand years ago, and the Lord Jesus Christ is still the author of eternal salvation unto all those who obey Him.

Faith, to everyone who truly loves the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:15, 23-24; 1 Jn. 5:1-5) is obedient. The book of Acts, which records the carrying out of the Great Commission under the inspired leadership of the apostles (Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-49), reveals that every convert to Christ heard, believed, and obeyed in the same manner to become a Christian: Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 36-38; 9:18 & 22:16; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 30-34; 18:8; 19:3-5. This proves that baptism is not a work of merit, but is faith in the working of God (Col. 2:11-12).

It stands to reason that if people today are willing to hear the same message that was preached by Christ's apostles, are willing to believe it, and are desirous of obeying it, they also can be added the church that the Lord Jesus built (Mat. 16:15-18), purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28), over which He is both Head and Savior (Eph. 5:23), and which He will deliver back to God when He comes again (1 Cor. 15:24).