

# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

+234 80 2327 0222

2 Kolex Close, Off Adeshina  
Road Ijeshatedo-Surulere,  
Lagos.

gcbo.com.ng



## ANNUAL FASTING AND PRAYER

### THE SAVING FAITH

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

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#### Ephesians 2:8-9

[8]For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
[9]not of works, lest anyone should boast.

#### What Is Saving Faith?

Saving faith is faith that not only knows and comprehends the facts about the gospel of Jesus Christ but also trusts in the person and works of Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

Saving faith is the biblical, God-given trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

It is moving beyond mere intellectual belief to personal reliance.

It involves understanding the gospel truths. Having the knowledge, conviction of their reality and personal surrender to Christ as Lord and Saviour. This faith is the instrument of justification and a gift of grace, leading to a transformed life.

#### The Components of Saving Faith.

##### More Than Intellectual Knowledge:

While it includes knowing the facts of the gospel, saving faith is not merely believing facts, which even demons do.

##### Trust and Reliance:

It is a deep, personal trust in Christ's work, not one's own efforts.

##### Repentance and Commitment:

Saving faith involves turning from sin and submitting to Jesus as Lord and Master.

A Gift from God: It is described as a gift of grace rather than a human work (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## **Key Aspects in Christian Theology**

**Instrument of Justification:** It is the means by which a person is justified (made right with God).

**Evidence of a Changed Life:** Genuine faith produces fruits of obedience and repentance.

**Elements of saving faith:**

These represent the move from intellectual knowledge of the gospel to cognitive agreement, and finally to personal trust in Jesus Christ.

**Knowledge:** Understanding the facts of the gospel, such as the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Assent:** Agreeing that these facts are true and personally applicable.

**Trust/Commitment:** Placing personal reliance and confidence in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

**Object of Faith:** The focus is not just "having faith," but specifically faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Romans 10:8-10**

**[8]**But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

**[9]**that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**[10]**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**\*Note\*** The Bible make us understand that not everyone who "believes" truly possesses saving faith.

Jesus himself warned in

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

**[21]**"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

**[22]**Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

**[23]** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'.

James 2:19 informs us that the demons believe in God—and tremble because of that belief. Yet they are not saved

On the other hand when the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "What must I do to be saved?" they replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). That's simple enough. Believe and be saved. Many Bible verses say that but the problem is not with the words but with their meaning. There is a sermon titled, 'The World's Greatest Question and God's Simple Answer'.

Indeed God's answer is simple: "Believe on the Lord Jesus." But what does it mean to "believe?" A.W. Tozer put the matter this way: "To the question 'What must I do to be saved?' we must learn the correct answer.

If anyone should fail here is not to gamble with our souls; it is to guarantee eternal banishment from the face of God. Here we must have the right answer or be finally lost."

May this not be our portion in Jesus name, Amen!