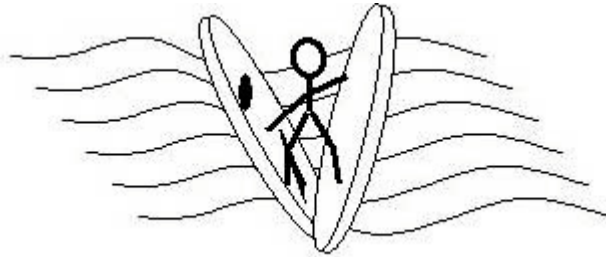


Is My Faith-in-God Fake or Genuine?

Introduction

Many people receive Christ in order to have eternal life in heaven but they are not willing to give up their old life styles, religious beliefs and traditions. They like to enjoy the benefits of both Heaven and this world.

It is equal to standing with one leg each on each boat. Neither boat could protect him. He will fall in the middle and get drowned. Or he has to cling to one boat and try to save himself.



A man standing on two boats

Similarly, our faith, if it is divided we cannot trust God to save us even though we desperately want to be saved.

Jesus said about it this way, Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

How does God know what kind of faith we have?

God looks into our heart, Revelation 3:23, "... Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve."

Isaiah 16:7, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man

looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' "

God demands a holy, reverential heart.

Because God is Holy and He expects all those who believe in Him to be holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16, "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: **"Be holy, because I am holy."**

Holiness is also a working of God in our lives. He only wants our cooperation and willingness to obey Him to make us one like His Son Jesus Christ. Romans 8:29, "For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

Genuine faith involves obedience to the commandments of God given in His Holy Bible. But God knew that it is impossible for anyone to become righteous before God by obeying those laws. Romans 3:20, says, "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

God has a better plan to make us righteous that is,

Righteousness Through faith

Romans 3:21-22, "But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

So the purpose of the commandments are to reveal to us that we are sinners and that we seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God and man.

During the time of Jesus came He summarized the Ten Commandments as follows:

- Love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself, and
- Love your enemies as yourself.

Romans 8:3-4, "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."

So the Holy Spirit whom God gave us at the time when we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior will be our helper to will and to do what He commanded us to do, which includes loving even our enemies. Philippians 2:13, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Another point is that,

We should not worship men or even Angels

Bible says, in Revelation 22:8-9, "I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, **"Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you** and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. **Worship God!"**

Again in Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26 Says, "As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. **"Stand**

up," he said, "I am only a man myself." Peter did not allow or accept Cornelius' worship.

When Apostle John bowed down to worship the Angel, he stopped John from worshipping him and he also refused John's worship. Only God is worthy of our worship. But as a sign of respect we could bow low to one another. That is fine.

Finally dear friends, we could place our faith in such a loving and trustworthy God, Jesus.

Jesus is trustworthy of our worship. He is the Son of God who rose from the dead and lives forever. He is able to fulfill all of God's promises no matter how many of them there are.

Jesus accepted worship because He is worthy of our worship

After His resurrection from the dead Jesus appeared to some of His disciples and they worshipped Him and Jesus accepted their worship, Matthew 28:8-10, "So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 1:19-20, "He (Jesus) isn't one to say "yes" when He means "no". He always does exactly what He says. He carries out and fulfills all of God's promises, no matter how many of them there are; and we have told everyone how faithful He is, giving glory to His name."

It isn't enough just to have faith. "Faith that doesn't show itself in obedience to God's word is no faith at all - it is dead and useless" (James 2:17). This does not mean that we gain salvation (eternal life) by doing good works. We receive salvation through genuine faith that results in good deeds.

The Bible says, in Ephesians 2:8-10, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourself, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one should boast. For we are God's

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

It is a universal truth that

"A dead man cannot keep his promises. Only a living person could keep his promises."

Jesus said, in Revelation 21:6-8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of water of life without cost. He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But the cowardly and the unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

This is your life. You cannot afford to gamble with it. You cannot leave this decision for another person to make for you. You are responsible to God for your life. Be wise and bold and make that decision today. The following are few things you need to know before you receive Christ:

- Once you receive Him by faith, trust that He lives in your life and tell others confirming your Salvation. Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
- You should not be ashamed of Jesus, because He is your risen Savior and Lord. In Matthew 8:38 Paul says, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- After receiving Him, obey Him lovingly and not out of fear. He loves you with an unconditional love. We should not be afraid of other believers (Christians). They are our brothers and sisters in

Christ. In order to love one another we should be willing to meet one another. Otherwise how could we know them enough to love one another with the love of God.

- vv.14:21, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."
- vv.10:25, "Let us not neglect our church meetings, as people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back is drawing near." Once you receive Jesus you have become a new creation.
- Therefore, we should love and obey His commandments, including baptism, and church fellowship and worship services.

Do you sincerely desire to have this kind of genuine faith? If yes, here is how you could receive Him.

For more information

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