

***“So then faith
comes by hearing,
and hearing
by the Word of God.”***

Romans 10:17

The first fundamental principle of salvation by faith implies we must hear and receive the Word of God.

Here's how scripture testifies to this:

Acts 22:14, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth."

Romans 15:4, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

What then should the attitude of our heart be?

Hebrews 3:15, "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

James 1:21, "Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the Word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls."

Why?

Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Therefore:

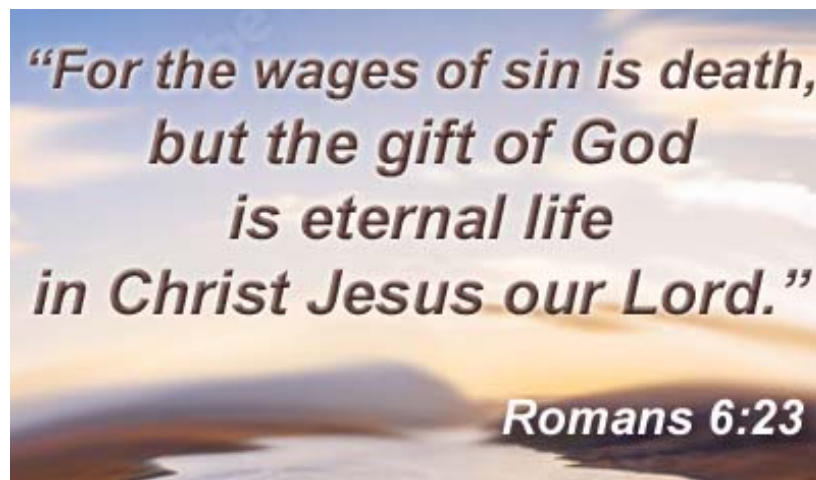
Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

John 8:47, "He who is of God hears God's words."

Is the door to my heart always open to receive the Word of God?

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Through the power of the Holy Spirit, comes the conviction in a person's heart that we are sinners needing to repent.

The reason Jesus declared:

John 16:7-8, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

In other words, in receiving the Word of God, people are convicted of sin through the Holy Spirit.

As such:

2 Corinthians 7:10, "Godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation."

However:

1 John 1:8, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

As a result:

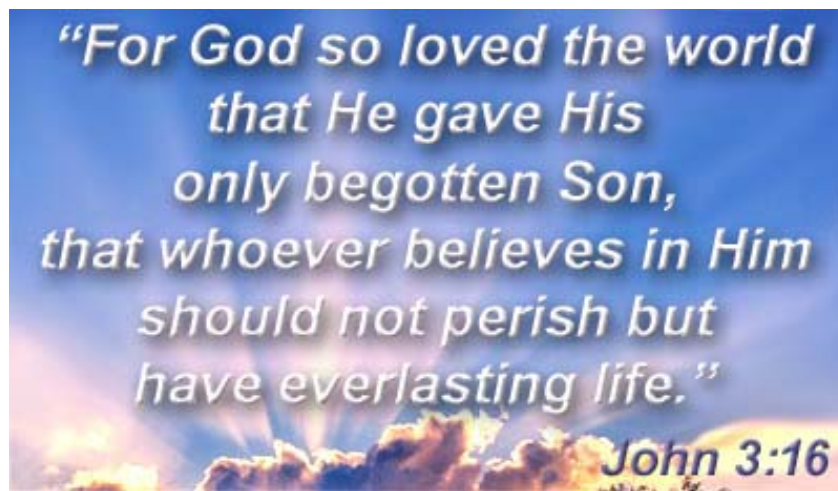
Romans 2:5, "Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."

Therefore:

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Do I recognize that I am a sinner, and have I repented and confessed my sins so as to receive God's forgiveness through Christ?

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How did Jesus define what true faith in God is?

John 5:24, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

Why?

Hebrews 11:6, “Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Ephesians 2:8, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith; and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

The purpose being:

2 Timothy 1:9, “He has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”

Ephesians 1:13, “In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Therefore:

Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

As such:

Hebrews 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace.”

Do I understand that genuine faith is much more than a simple acknowledgement of the truth?

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“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19

Repentance implies that we regret having sinned against God, which then produces a change of heart to reject sin, and live to follow Christ. Why then is true repentance a necessary component leading to salvation?

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

As such:

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Proverbs 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes *them* will have mercy.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

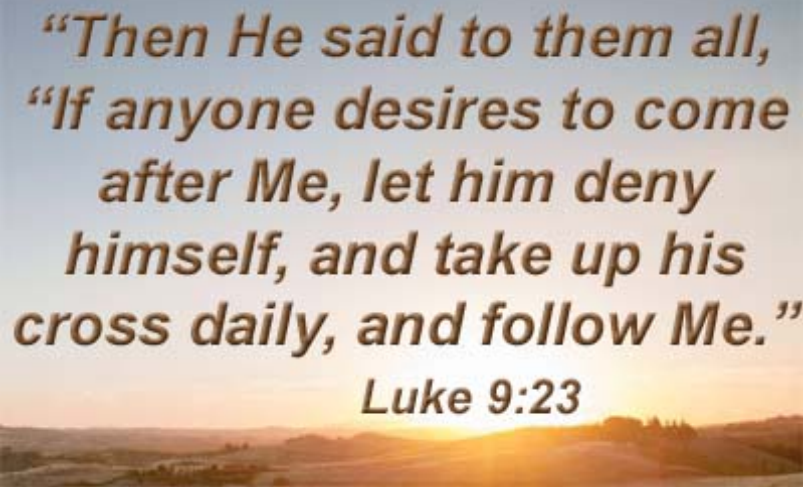
1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Therefore:

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Have I repented of my sins and truly believed in Christ to follow Him as Lord?

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How did Jesus clearly teach us that we must surrender our lives so as to truly follow Him as Lord?

Matthew 7:21 "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."

Luke 14:33 "Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."

As such:

John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

How then must we follow Christ daily?

Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

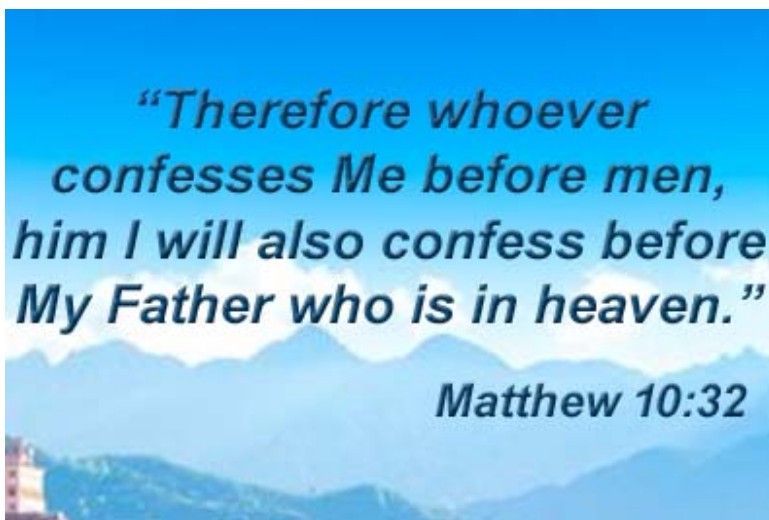
Philippians 2:5-7 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men."

Therefore:

Galatians 5:24 "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Am I truly surrendered to Christ, or does my heart still linger in the world?

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Why must we, as true believers, confess Christ as Savior and Lord?
Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

1 John 4:2 "By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God."

1 John 4:15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

Romans 10:10 "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The reason the apostle Paul said:

1 Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Therefore:

1 John 2:23 "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also."

From the testimony of my life and confession of faith, would my family, friends, and even my neighbors acknowledge that Christ is Lord of my life?

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“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-27

Why is water baptism an integral part of salvation?

In Jesus' own words:

John 3:5 “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

What's more?

Acts 2:38 “Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

As such:

Romans 6:3 “Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

1 Peter 3:21 “Baptism now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Therefore and as Jesus commanded us to:

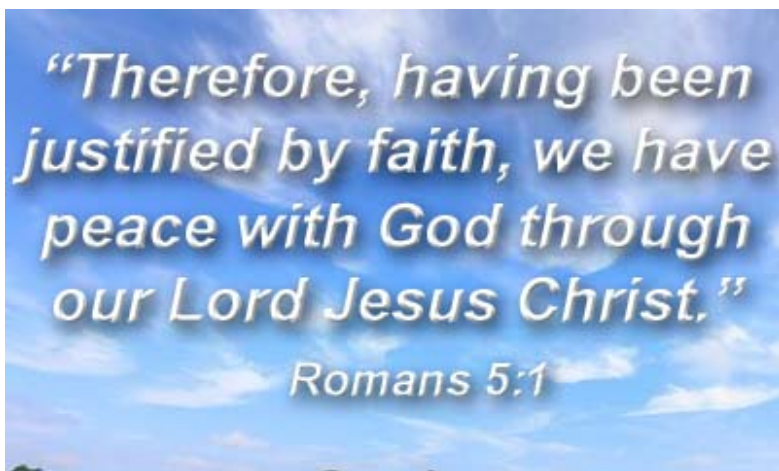
Mark 16:15-16 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

And so...

Acts 22:15-16 “You will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Do I understand that water baptism is not merely a ceremony, but rather an integral part of our willful confession of faith in Christ as Savior and Lord?

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How does the Word of God define the justification received through faith in Christ?

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”*

Romans 5:9 *“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”*

Romans 8:30 *“Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

Why?

Galatians 3:24 *“So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.”*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

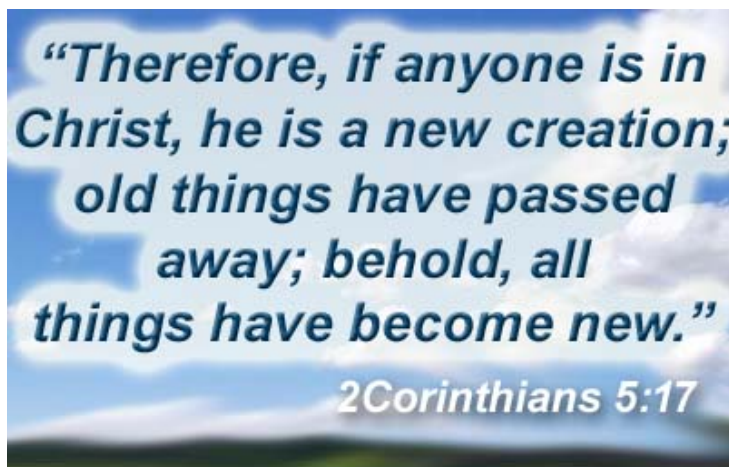
The purpose being:

John 5:24 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*

Titus 3:7 *“That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

Do I understand that true faith in Christ implies that I must not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit, and as such live to follow Christ as Lord into eternal life?

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As true believers in Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells us to live in newness of life.

How does the Word of God declare this?

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Titus 2:11-13 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Romans 6:3-4 “Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

The reason why:

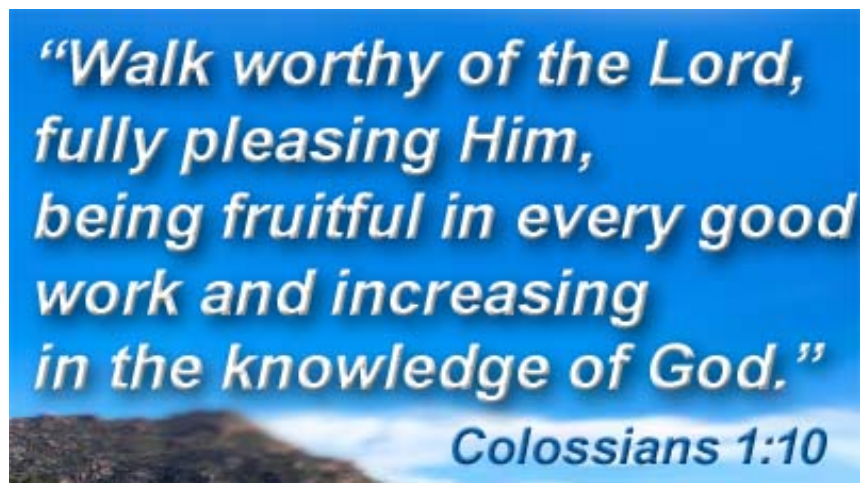
Romans 6:1-2 “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

Therefore:

1 John 2:6 “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

Am I a new creation in Christ, denying worldly lusts and walking in newness of life?

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As saved born again believers, what does Christ desire and require from us?

John 15:16 “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

How is that accomplished?

Colossians 3:1 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”

2 Peter 3:18 “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 5:16 “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God.”

Colossians 3:5 “Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Therefore and in Jesus’ own words:

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

How much fruit do I bear for Christ right now?

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