

# 119

## MINISTRIES

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### **Faith and Salvation**

Faith and salvation are two foundational Biblical concepts for those who claim to follow YHWH and are in the body of Messiah, and unsurprisingly, the Scriptures have a lot to say about them. In this teaching, we're going to examine those concepts and how they are linked. We'll be examining what faith is, how faith is related to hope, and how this all connects to salvation. Let's get started.

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the “Hall of Faith” or the “Faith chapter” of Scripture, as it includes many great examples of God’s people living out their faith. So, naturally, we too will start this journey with Hebrews 11:1.

#### **Hebrews 11:1**

[Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.](#)

This verse gives us a very familiar definition of faith. People often oversimplify this definition to make faith and hope into the same thing. While faith and hope are certainly related, faith is much more than just hoping that good things will come our way, it is more than just saying you believe something.

If we look at the context of Hebrews 11, the things that these men of faith "hoped for" were things that YHWH had promised would come to pass. They did not just hope for things that they personally wanted, but for things God had told them would happen. Their faith, their assurance, was in the fact that God would keep his word.

Faith gets tied to YHWH’s promises that things will come to pass.

We see this with Abram. Abram hoped to have an heir, a son. Before YHWH made any promises about Abram's son, all he had was hope. He is not said to have had faith yet, this came later.

#### **Genesis 15:1-3**

[After these things the word of the LORD \[YHWH\] came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD \[YHWH\] what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”](#)

So, God has told Abram that he will have a great reward, and Abram asks God what that reward is going to be. He states that his desire is to have offspring. So far, no faith is being shown here. Abram has no assurances that he will have a natural-born heir, so he has nothing to "believe" in...yet. But look what happens next:

**Genesis 15:4, 6**

And behold, the word of the LORD [YHWH] came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ...And he believed the LORD [YHWH], and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Once YHWH gives His promise Abram's hope turns into faith, into belief. He doesn't just have blind hope, baseless hope, but he has hope and assurance that God will do what he said. Once God's Word entered the equation, then Abram could have true faith.

What this shows us, is that Hebrews 11:1 is really teaching us to have faith in the Word of God.

It is in the Word that we are to place our hope, in YHWH's word. This is echoed repeatedly throughout Psalms.

**Psalms 130:5**

I wait for the LORD [YHWH], my soul waits, and **in his word I hope;**

**Psalms 119:81**

My soul longs for your salvation; **I hope in your word.**

**Psalms 119:74**

Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because **I have hoped in your word.**

When YHWH tells us something, we can apply our faith and have hope because what He says is true.

**Isaiah 55:11**

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Jeremiah 1:12**

Then the LORD [YHWH] said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

So what is faith according to Hebrews 11?

Faith is: the knowledge that what YHWH has promised will come about; it is the strong belief (a firm conviction) of things not yet realized in our lives.

We believe true faith has a bit more to its full definition, it has 3 main components based upon Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:6, and James 2:18. Those components are belief, commitment, and obedience.

First, what is faith?

**Faith is: believing that everything God said is true, committing to follow what it says, and then doing what the Word says.**

Now how did we get there? Check this out and let us know what you think.

### **Belief.**

We'll start with belief, it's the easy one, the one most already realize.

#### **Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, **the conviction** of things not seen.

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

These two verses show us the importance of our belief. Verse 1 talks about the conviction, a deep-seated belief in things hoped for, things assured them by the Father.

Verse 6 says we have to believe that YHWH exists and that He is faithful to reward those who seek Him. Again we are told the importance of believing what the Father tells us. If we believe it to be true, then we act accordingly. For a more in depth look at what it means to believe, please see our teaching titled [Believing](#).

### **Commitment.**

The importance for our commitment to the Father is laid out in the second part of verse 6.

#### **Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

Not only do we have to believe that YHWH exists, we have to seek Him. There is no such thing as half-hearted with God. We are not supposed to be lukewarm when it comes to the Father.

#### **Revelation 3:16**

So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Our relationship with YHWH needs to be all-in, we have to commit ourselves to Him and what He wants of us. How do we do that? One way is believing in Him; and if we believe then we have reason to commit. We show our commitment, in part, by doing what we believe to be true; that is, by obeying Him.

### **Obedience.**

#### **James 2:18**

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**

Finally, we see the final component of what it means to have faith in what James tells us in chapter two

of his epistle. You see, James knew that our works, what we do, gives evidence to others about our faith. It's our living testimony. When we believe something is true, we act as though it is true. If we truly believe YHWH will keep His promise to bless us if we obey Him, then we will obey Him.

**In other words faith is: believing and trusting, committing to that belief, and then taking actions based upon our commitment to those beliefs.**

Faith is more than just a mental assent or acknowledgement of information. True faith has not only a mental assent, but a commitment to that belief coupled with actions. Actions are the evidence of what we believe and are committed to. So true faith is action born out of our commitment to what we believe.

We'll say it again. True faith is belief that we commit to and act upon.

Now that we have a firm grasp on what faith is scripturally, let's look at what salvation is and how faith works in relation to it.

## **THE INNER WORKINGS OF SALVATION**

Before we can understand salvation and how it relates to our faith, we have to first know why there is even a need for salvation. We are going to move through this rather quickly and keep it rather high level for the sake of time.

Sin is the transgression of the Law of God, His Torah.

### **1 John 3:4**

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

When we sin, we are unrighteous, conversely, when we obey YHWH we are righteous.

### **Deuteronomy 6:24-25**

And the LORD [YHWH] commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD [YHWH] our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD [YHWH] our God, as he has commanded us.

### **Deuteronomy 30:16**

If you obey the commandments of the LORD [YHWH] your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD [YHWH] your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD [YHWH] your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

### **Romans 2:13**

For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

Those who sin and are unrighteous, deserve death.

### **Deuteronomy 30:18-19**

But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods

and serve them, I declare to you today, that **you shall surely perish**. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live

**Matthew 10:28**

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell

**1 Corinthians 6:9**

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

**Romans 6:23a**

For the wages of sin is death...

Now this leads us to another very important matter, the penalty for sin, our death.

As you may know, according to the Torah, it takes 2 to 3 witnesses to establish guilt in a matter and sentence someone to death.

**Deuteronomy 19:15**

A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

But did you realize that this includes our own guilt with the Father?

This is referring to physical crimes and physical punishment, but this same principle of having 2-3 witnesses applies to spiritual crime and punishment as well. Just like 2-3 witnesses are necessary in a human court, they are also necessary in YHWH's courtroom.

We see this pattern repeated multiple times in Scripture, Moses calling Heaven and the earth as witnesses of the Torah (Deuteronomy 30:19) or Yeshua stating that the Father is one witness for Him and He, Himself, is a second (John 8:12-19). So, just as on earth there are 2-3 witnesses required, the same is true in order for us to be guilty before the Father.

Okay, so now we know what faith is and we know that two witnesses are necessary in order to establish our guilt. Let's continue on.

**Romans 3:19-20**

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

The question that must be answered first is, who are those that are "under the law"? For the sake of time we will simply state that all of mankind is "under the law" until they come into covenant through faith in the Messiah and receive salvation by grace through that faith.

Being “under the law” means under the penalty of the law, which is death. This is also called the Law of Sin and Death (Romans 8:2). Paul states a little earlier in Romans that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

We cover these topics in other teachings. (See [Believing](#), [The Lost Sheep](#), [Don't Be Under the Law](#), the [Pauline Paradox series](#), among others). Once someone comes into the faith, they are no longer under the penalty of the law (Romans 3); they are no longer under the law of sin, the law of sin and death.

Now that we've answered the question of who's under the law, we saw in Romans 3 that every mouth will be stopped and that the whole world may be held accountable. How can this be?

Well, remember, there are two witnesses for our actions whenever we sin. We have the Torah which defines sin (Romans 7:7 & 1 John 3:4) and then every deed is recorded in a book, according to Revelation 20:12.

These witnesses are why every mouth will be shut, or stopped, before our Creator; our sin is established. Some may want to argue here that we are forgiven and we are, but please bear with us for a bit longer and we'll get to that.

Let's look at another Scripture in Galatians 3.

#### **Galatians 3:24-26**

[So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus \[Messiah Yeshua\] you are all sons of God, through faith.](#)

The "law of sin and death" teaches us that we are under a curse, in bondage. It is only then that we realize our need for. Without that knowledge we would have no reason to come to Him. For more on the tutor or guardian, please see our teachings titled "[The Tutor](#)" or "[Pauline Paradox Part 5: Galatians](#)".

This is all Salvation 101 stuff, right?

So, we need the "curse of the law" or the "law of sin and death" to teach us that we are in bondage (under sin - Romans 3:20) in order to "escort" us to the Messiah. This law of sin teaches us to have faith in God, because without God, we are dead in our sins.

#### **Galatians 3:25**

[But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.](#)

Let's return to that definition of faith. Part of faith is believing that what the Word tells us is true.

The Word, which includes the Torah or Law of God, shows us that we deserve death, so how can we be saved?

#### **The Way of Salvation**

The Father has provided a way to salvation. That way is through faith in Messiah, the Word. In other words, the way for us to be saved is to believe that we have sinned and deserve death because the Word

says so. We trust that what the Father told us is true, that to be righteous we are to follow His Word, and then we do it.

Through our faith, we receive perfect righteousness.

### **Romans 3:21-26**

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ [Messiah Yeshua] for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua]**, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus [Yeshua].

### **Romans 5:17**

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who **receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ [Messiah Yeshua]**.

Our sins are removed from us, as if they never happened.

### **Jeremiah 31:33-34**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD [YHWH]: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD [YHWH],' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD [YHWH]. **For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."**

And through our faith, by the grace of YHWH, we receive eternal life.

### **Romans 6:28b**

the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua] our Lord.

### **Ephesians 2:4-9**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua], so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua]. **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

We must believe what YHWH has said to be true. We commit to that truth, and then live our lives as evidence of our belief in that truth.

Doing so is the exercising of our faith in the Word; through that faith and by the grace of YHWH, we can receive salvation.



After we have that faith, after we realize that we deserve death and need the redeeming work of the Messiah and turn our faith into action (our obedience), we are no longer under the curse (law of sin and death).

Before we had faith in Messiah, we were under the law of sin and death (the curse), but after faith we are no longer under the law of sin and death.

The law of sin and death is the tutor, the guardian. Again, for a more detailed discussion of that topic, please see our teachings "[The Tutor](#)" or "[The Pauline Paradox Part 5: Galatians](#)".

The tutor is no longer needed because we are no longer "under the law" (of sin and death). When we come into the faith we have the understanding that Messiah paid the penalty of the law for us.

Are you starting to see how this is all working together? The Torah was given to define for us what sin was, there is a penalty for sinning which is death. No one can be put to death unless there are two witnesses.

The Law of Moses, the Torah, is one witness. But what's the second?

#### **Revelation 20:11-15**

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And **the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done**. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Did you see that?

All of our deeds are being recorded in books; those books are the second witness.

However, once we have faith in Messiah, we find that we are no longer under the penalty of the law because he paid that penalty. Yet, how can that be?

If the Torah stands until Heaven and earth pass away, and every deed is written down, then shouldn't we still deserve eternal death?

We find the answer to that question when we look at Colossians 2:13-14.

#### **Colossians 2:13-14**

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by **canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands**. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Verse 13 confirms that we were dead in our sins, but through Messiah our sins are forgiven. So...what happens when our sins are forgiven?

The "**record of debt that stood against us**" is cancelled out, it's been paid by Messiah and nailed to the



tree.

What and where was this record of debt written down? It is what is written down in the book where all of our deeds were recorded (Revelation 20:12), the second witness that establishes our guilt. Once that record of debt is paid, it is removed from our record; our transgressions are removed; we have been made white as snow by the Messiah's righteousness.

**Psalm 103:12**

as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**Jeremiah 31:34b**

...For I will forgive their iniquity, **and I will remember their sin no more.**

**Isaiah 1:18**

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD [YHWH]  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as **white as snow**;  
though they are red like crimson,  
they shall become like wool.

Through our faith, we are now spotless before YHWH!

Not only is there now only one witness, but there is no record of our transgression at all!

We now have eternal life! Messiah paid the penalty and thus blotted out the account of our transgressions so they could no longer be held against us! Our transgressions are gone, leaving nothing to convict us of, nothing to condemn us with.

The reason that having faith in Messiah works is **not** because the law was removed from us as some believe Colossians 2 teaches.

The Torah has requirements that have to be met, the Father's Word stands. Salvation works because all records of our transgressions have been removed, there is no required second witness, and better yet, all record of our transgressions have been blotted out!

YHWH does not operate outside of His own law; if He did, then we couldn't have faith or hope in what He promised us.

**CONNECTING THE DOTS**

So let's put everything together, and fill in a few blanks that may still exist that we didn't cover in this teaching.

Faith is believing in YHWH, committing and trusting in God and His Word, and then living our lives in obedience according to what it says.

What does it say?

- It says that **we receive grace through our faith** (Ephesians 2:8).

- His Word tells us that when we transgress, or break, the Law of God (Torah) that we are sinning making us unrighteous, deserving of death and that those sins are recorded in a book (1 John 3:4, Deuteronomy 6:25, Romans 2:13, Revelation 20:12).
- The Torah says that only with two to three witnesses can someone be put to death. This is a physical law that teaches us the same spiritual truth, two witnesses are needed for us to be condemned to eternal death.
- It says the perfect righteousness of the Messiah is available to us through **our faith** because of his faith (Romans 3:22).
- It says **that through our faith in who and what the Messiah is, his righteousness cover our unrighteousness**. There is now no condemnation for those in Messiah (Romans 8:1).
- When this happens, **we are saved from the penalty of eternal death** (Romans 6:23) because the record of our transgression is blotted out, it's removed, we are made white as snow (Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18).

So there you have it, through our faith we are saved by the grace of the Father through our faith because of the works of the Son.

Our Creator is amazing, perfect, just, righteous, and good. He gives us instructions detailing how He wants us to live as a set apart people. Like a good father, when we break the rules, there is a penalty for it; and it's a severe one. Yet, because He loves His people so much He even provided a way within His own rules that we can be redeemed from that punishment.

His law really is perfect; within it lies all of His provision for us.

We hope that this study has blessed you.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom.

*For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at [www.testeverything.net](http://www.testeverything.net)*

**Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.**

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