

**Most evangelical Christians agree there are two sides to the coin of saving faith.**



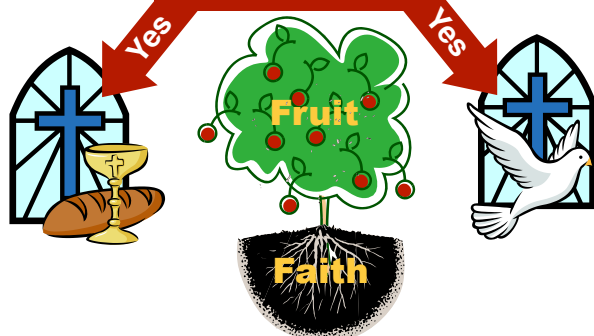
## True Faith



*Ephesians 2:8-10*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

## True Faith



**Are we saved by faith or by fruit?**

*A common erroneous impression*

**The New Covenant provides the power to obey the Old Covenant.**

**The Old Covenant demands obedience so that we may be saved.**

**The New Covenant enables obedience so that we will be saved.**

**God does not save us in (with) our sins.**

**God saves us from (out of) our sins.**

“A Christian cannot live in known sin and remain in a saving relationship with Christ.”

*John N. Oswalt*  
(Wesley Biblical Seminary)

“Get rid of this bunkum about the “carnal Christian.” Forget it! If you’re carnal, you’re not saved.”

*Leonard Ravenhill*  
(British evangelist)

“It (justification) occurs in the future, on the basis of the entire life a person has led in the power of the Spirit—that is, it occurs on the basis of works.”

*N.T. Wright*

**Evangelical Christians disagree as to what extent the two sides are inseparable.**



## Discipleship salvation

A person has to display the obedience of a disciple of Christ before their faith is genuine.

## Discipleship salvation **Concerns**

- Not everyone** who professes to be a Christian really is saved.
- We will know true Christians by their **obedience** to the moral law of God.
- We must come to Christ and **follow after Him** if He is to save us.
- A true believer **cannot and will not** live with unresolved sins in this life.
- The **final judgment** will be in accordance with our works.\*

## Discipleship salvation **Rational**

- Jesus teaching** in the Gospels.
- Some parts of the **Apostles teaching** in the Epistles.
- The criteria of the **final judgment**.
- The conditional nature of the **covenants**.

- ➡ The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law. “whoever shall say ‘you fool’ shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire**.” (Matt.5:22-23).
- ➡ **Matt.5:29-30** “And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for **it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell**. And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be into hell.” (also Matt.18:8-9)
- ➡ **Matt.6:14-15** “For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But **if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions**.”
- ➡ **Matt.7:19** “Every tree that does not **bear good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

### *Romans 6*

“<sup>22</sup> But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in **sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life**. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Does “sanctification” refer to the finished work of Christ for us or the continuing work of Christ’s Spirit in and through us?**

### *Romans 8*

“<sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> **in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**.”

**In what sense are the requirements of the Law to be fulfilled “in us”?**

**Is it “for us” or “by us” (through us)?**

**Level #1**  
**Intellectual awareness**  
**“knowing about the**

**Level #2**  
**Intellectual assent**  
**“superficial faith**

Free Grace people are sometimes accused of believing this is all that is necessary for salvation.

Free Grace people believe this is what is necessary for salvation.

**Level #3**  
**Heartfelt Trust**  
**“heartfelt confession of**

Some Discipleship Salvation people believe this is necessary for salvation.

**Level #4**  
**Commitment to holy living**  
**(a pure heart)**

Other Discipleship Salvation people believe this is necessary for salvation.

**Level #5**  
**Living a life of obedience**  
**(a pure life)**

Free Grace people  
believe this is what is  
necessary for salvation.

**Level #3**  
**Heartfelt Trust**  
"heartfelt confession of  
faith"

**Justification**  
(declared  
righteous)

**Love**  
(care for the  
neighbor)

**Hope**  
(Christ is our  
righteousness)

*Legal peace*

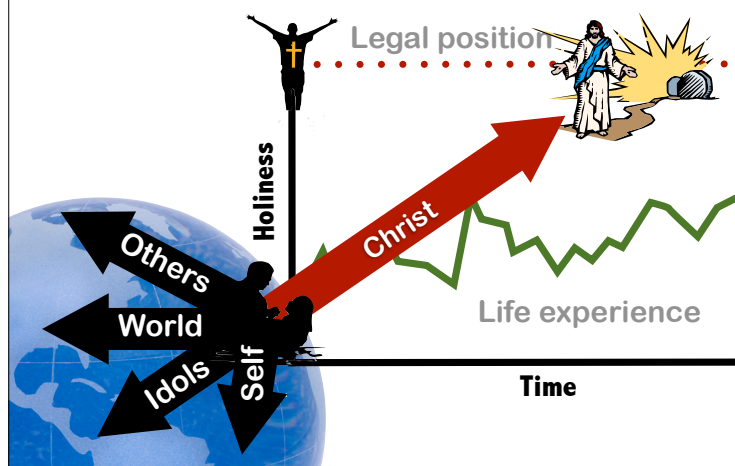
*Psychological peace*

**progressive growth in holy living**

## Distinguish between

1. Old Covenant & New Covenant
2. Legal Position & Dynamic Performance
3. Being "in Christ" & Christ living "in me"
4. Child of God (legal position) & Disciple of Christ (obedience)
5. Strategic Repentance (conversion) & Tactical Repentance (communion)
6. Faith operating through Love & through Law
7. The ministry of Christ & the ministry of the Spirit

## Your new inner direction in life



Galatians 3:27

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ  
have clothed yourselves with Christ."



Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified  
with Christ; and it is  
no longer I who live,  
but Christ lives in me;"

Ephesians 2:6

"and raised us up with  
Him, and seated us with  
Him in the heavenly  
places in Christ Jesus."

**Child  
of God**

Legal position

Complete &  
perfect

faith  
through baptism

**Disciple  
of Christ**

Living behavior

Dynamic &  
process

faithfulness  
through obedience

## Strategic REPENTANCE for salvation.



(the sin  
of unbelief)  
Worldly  
hopes



Kingdom  
hopes

**Conversion to faith in Christ**

## Tactical repentance for discipleship.



(Sinful ways)

Worldly attachments, attitudes, and actions



Kingdom living

Communion with God and others

Agape is a key Biblical word that overlaps with the others

Agape  
sacrificial  
caring

Philia  
warm  
affection

Eros  
sensual  
longing

Storge  
natural  
loyalty

Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

Tutor  
(Mirror)



The Law

Surrogate  
(Substitute)



Jesus

Paraclete  
(Comforter)



The Spirit

The tendency is to try to live under the Law in the power of the Spirit.

Tutor  
(Mirror)



The Law

Paraclete  
(Comforter)



The Spirit

## An analogy



- The Holy Spirit is a Helper not a Surrogate. He works with us, not for us.
- Believers are soldiers not spectators in Spiritual warfare.

## How does a person identify a good basketball player?

- ✓ Body type
- ✓ Ethnic/cultural background
- ✓ Physical appearance, age, dress, etc.
- ✓ Reputation with others
- ✓ Watch them play



## How does a person identify saving faith?

- ✓ Outward Confession
- ✓ Associations
- ✓ Index markers in behavior
- ✓ Testimony with others
- ✓ Response to circumstances



## *Concluding observations*

- ✓ **True faith is a deep heartfelt transfer of trust to Christ.**
- ✓ **True faith does not take the form of faithfulness or obedience to the law.**
- ✓ **True faith always produces inner fruit (hope and love).**
- ✓ **True faith normally produces outer fruit (obedience to the law of God).**

“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. Better still, Christ is our holiness.”

*Charles Spurgeon*