

“FOR WITHOUT FAITH” (1)

By Keith Greer

Often, we are questioned as to why we believe in and do various acts in our obedience to God. "For we walk by faith and not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Can you explain the reason why God chose **BAPTISM** as the means by which we contact the blood of Christ?-(Colossians 2:12) Can you explain why God chose unleavened bread and fruit of the vine as that which represents the body and blood of our Lord? (Matthew 26:26-29)

God, in His limitless wisdom, has devised the plan for man's salvation. "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." (1 Corinthians 1:20,21)

Man needs to put his trust and confidence in God's ability, instead of his own. (Jeremiah 10:23) The whole duty of man is to defined by the wise man Solomon a long time ago, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all." [Ecclesiastes 12:13]

In Genesis 6:8-9, we read about Noah "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." Consider this, was Noah saved by faith alone, without works? In Genesis 6:22, we read that "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

When Noah was obedient to God, "...by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." (Hebrews 11:7) Only by putting his faith into action was Noah and his family saved!

So, why should we put our faith in God? "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) That word. "FAITHFUL" means reliable, and God will never let us down. God has no limits on His power. Whatever He says or promises,

God can and will deliver!

Our faith in God must be interwoven into every fiber of our lives. "FOR IN HIM WE LIVE, AND MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING; AS CERTAIN ALSO OF YOUR OWN POETS HAVE SAID, FOR WE ARE ALSO HIS OFFSPRING." [Acts 17:28] "EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT IS FROM ABOVE, AND COMETH DOWN FROM THE FATHER OF LIGHTS ... "[James 1:17]

Can you explain how we can have flowers in the desert, so bright and beautiful, even with little or no water? How does the earth revolve around the sun, exactly one time in one year?

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." If we truly believe in God, we know that all things are possible by Him. [Matthew 19:26]

Why would God save someone like me when I have done so many undeserving things in my life? After Jesus told Nicodemus that a man must be born of water and of the spirit to enter the kingdom of God [John 3:5], He went on to tell him that, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." {John 3:13-17}

The simple answer is that God loved man more than He deserved and offered grace by the giving of His Son on the cross of Calvary! (cont.) ***