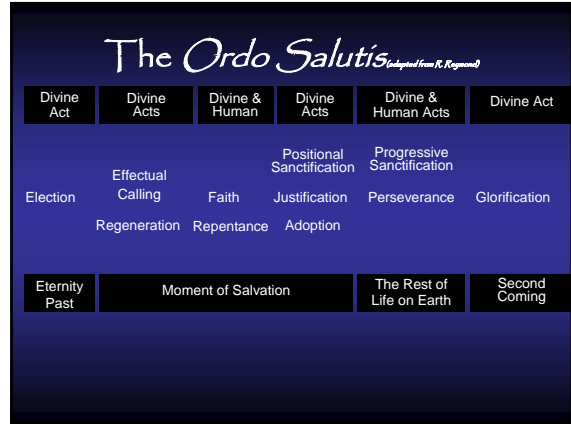


The Faith to Believe



Conversion

- To turn around
- From Sin → repentance
- To God → faith
- A single act

What is the Source of Faith?

- God
- A gift of grace
 - John 6:44 - "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."
 - Acts 13:48 - as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.
 - Acts 16:14 - A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.
 - Acts 18:27 - those who had believed through grace
 - Phil. 1:29 - For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake...to believe in Him
 - Eph. 2:8-9
 - Cf. 1 Cor. 12:3; 1 Tim. 1:14; Heb. 12:2; 2 Pet. 1:1

What is Faith?

- What saving faith is not
 - Natural – everyday faith
 - Historical – intellectually accept as history
 - Miraculous – the faith of those who believed because of miracles, done to them or by them (John 2:23; Matt. 7:22-23)
 - Temporary – cf. rocky soil – no root (Matt. 13:20-21; Luke 8:6)

What is Faith?

- What true faith is contrasted with
 - The works of the Law (Rom. 3:20-22; 4:14; 10:4; Gal. 2:16; 3:11; 5:4)
 - Works of any kind (Rom. 4:5; 11:6)
 - A righteousness of one's own (Phil. 3:9)
 - Not of oneself (Eph. 2:8-9)
- *By faith alone!*

The Council of Trent

“If anyone says that by faith alone the sinner is justified, so as to mean that nothing else is required to cooperate in order to obtain the grace of just. – let him be anathema.”

What is Faith?

- How true faith is pictured or illustrated
 - Looking to him (cf. Num. 21:9; John 3:14-15)
 - Eating his flesh & drinking his blood (John 6:50-58; cf. 4:14)
 - Receiving him (John 1:12)
 - Coming to him (John 5:40; 6:44, 65; 7:37-38)

What is Faith?

- How saving faith is defined
 - Calvin: “a kind of vessel [with which] we come empty and with the mouth of our soul open to seek God’s grace.”
 - Spurgeon: “believing that Christ is what he is said to be, and that he will do what he has promised to do, and then to expect this of him.”
 - Berkhof: “a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.”

What are the Elements of Faith?

- Knowledge (*notitia*)
 - Intellectual
 - Factual content of faith
 - The only foundation of true faith
 - “believe that”
 - Cf. Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; 11:42; 14:11; 16:27; 20:31; Rom. 10:9; 1 Th. 4:14; 1 John 5:1, 4

What are the Elements of Faith?

- Knowledge (*notitia*)
- What does Scripture include as the facts of saving faith?
 - Must know about God & Christ
 - Jesus’ preexistent deity (John 8:24)
 - His identity as the Son of God (John 11:27; 1 John 4:15)
 - His identity as the Messiah (John 6:69; 1 John 5:1)
 - His incarnation (John 11:42; 17:8, 21)
 - His full humanity (1 John 4:2)
 - His oneness w/ the Father (John 14:11)
 - Must know about the message of the gospel (Mark 1:14; Acts 4:4; 6:7; 13:8; 14:22; 16:5; 17:11; Rom. 10:14*, 17; 1 Cor. 15:1-8, 11)

What are the Elements of Faith?

- Assent (*assensus*)
 - Emotional
 - Being convinced that the knowledge you gained from the Scripture about Christ is factually true and that He is exactly what you need
 - “believe [person or proposition] w/o “that” or a preposition
 - cf. 4:3; 10:16; John 2:22; 4:21, 50; 5:24, 38, 46, 47; 6:30; 8:31, 45, 46; 10:37, 38; 12:38; 14:11; Acts 8:12; 16:34; 18:8; 24:14; 27:25; 1 Cor. 11:18; Gal. 3:6 2 Th. 2:11, 12; 2 Tim. 1:12; Tit. 3:8; Jam. 2:23; 1 John 3:23; 4:1; 5:10

What are the Elements of Faith?

- Trust (*fiducia*)
 - Volitional
 - Heart of faith
 - Thrust of OT faith (e.g., Ps. 4:5; 9:10; 22:4; 25:2, etc)
 - “believe in” -- Jn. 3:15; Acts 13:39
 - “believe on -- Matt. 27:42; Luke 24:25; Acts 9:42; 11:17; Rom. 10:11; 9:33; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 2:6
 - “believe into” – Rom. 4:5, 24; 10:14; Jn. 1:12; 2:11, 23; 3:16, 18, 36; 4:39; 6:29, 35, 40; 11:25, 26, 45, 48; 12:11, 36, 37, 42, 44, 46; Acts 10:43; 14:23; 16:31; 19:4; 22:19; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 Jn. 5:10, 13

What is the Role of Faith?

- “By or through faith”
- Merely an empty hand, outstretched
- A channel
- An instrument
- Never the *cause* or *grounds*

What is the Object of Faith?

- The objects of faith:
 - General faith → faith in God and His revealed Word
 - Special Faith [saving faith] → faith in Christ and the promise of salvation through Him
- Always the person of Christ (e.g., John 1:12; 3:16; Gal. 2:16)