

# CHRISTIAN FAITH WORKS ACTIVELY

S180R(Ref.S46R)  
(Ref. 1 John 5:14-15)

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For many years the opinions among professed Christian have been many and varied, when trying to discern the difference between 'active faith' and 'works of self'. A true Christian should have clear understanding of the difference between the 'works of faith', and that of mere outward actions of a self-life (which have no spiritual value or merit). A life of 'active faith' (at the feet of Jesus Christ), means to place oneself (and family) by faith at the foot of the Cross of Christ, and taking our requests to God in prayer (in Jesus' Name), with our trust solely on God's promises. It is the only place where 'spiritual growth' can come from, (that most necessary 'growth in holiness, apart from which no one will see the Lord." (Heb.12:14)

Many people say that obedience to God's Word is works, and therefore one is trying to work their way into Heaven instead of being 'saved by grace' through faith on the Son of God. They say that they are not required to obey God's Word on finances, divine healing, or other instructions He has given in His Word. God's Word, however, says to 'believe on His Son', and that command must be obeyed, for it is above all else what God requires of everyone (the one condition that God places on His will, and His plan for our Salvation.

Many people think that obedience to God's Word is not directly connected to an active faith in His Son, but faith and obedience are never separated in the Bible. To label faithful obedience as works, is an attempt to find excuse for unscriptural ways and disobedience to God's Word. We first have to believe and accept, that Jesus was giving us God's Word which we are to obey,... that is, to have a forgiving heart toward those who dislike us; trust Him financially, and to scripturally use the money that passes through our hands (and to not go into debt); also to trust Him for healing of the body and not rely on drugs, medicine, and doctors; (and, many other issues of life). The truth is that if one does not truly believe a word given to them, they can not faithfully obey that word. Faith does not work that way. Faith can not obey due to unbelief. Why would a person put faith in something that they did not believe was true?

However, God's 'Promises' all have 'yes' at the end of them, and that is what we are to 'believe' if we want to place our trust in God's 'Promises'. Every time we pray for all those things which Jesus has already purchased with His own blood for us, those 'Promises' are saying to us, that God has already heard and answered our prayer. [ When we pray, we are really asking to see God's mercy, which He has already extended to us through the Atonement work of His Son on the Cross. We should believe we have received the first time we pray, and not have to keep pleading for God's mercy (for the same thing) because of our unbelief. That is a principle of Truth that the Holy Spirit has to teach all of us. That is why the spiritual blessing received (with each answer to a prayer made in faith), is so important in the Christian life. ]

There are three actions of real faith for a Christian; which are 'ask', 'believe', and 'receive'. That is God's "plan for our deliverance". After we have definitely placed our request before God (with no reservations),...we should not doubt (nor have to repeat the same specific request over and over, which would indicate doubt, or, not believing for what we had prayed). Rather, we continue with our 'stand of faith' to receive an answer to our prayer, along with a request to be shown why we have not received.

The 'condition' for receiving our answers to prayer, is to believe that we have already received them. (Mark 11:24), "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, 'believe' that ye have received them (Jesus said), and ye shall have them."

Therefore, if we have really believed that God has heard and answered our prayer, why should we ask again and again (for the same thing?)(the late Pastor queried). If one of our children would ask for the privilege to go somewhere, and we had told them, "yes, you may go,"...then they would ask the same question again and again,... we would conclude that they did not really believe us when we had said 'yes' the first time they asked.

(1 John 5:14-15)says, "And we have an assured confidence that whenever we ask anything in accordance with His will, He listens to us. And since we know that He listens to us, then whatever we ask, we know that we have the things which we have asked from Him." (By faith on the power of the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ, we can have every scriptural prayer answered.)

This being true, why should we ask again and again instead of believing to receive what we had already prayed for. The devil wants us to surrender our Atonement right to pray and receive by faith.

An example of this is in the case of the nobleman whose boy was sick, (John 4:46-54). He came to Jesus and first asked Him to heal his son. Jesus said, "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." That answer did not grant the father's request, but he refused to doubt nor give up on the request that he had already made (so he said in faith), "Sir, come down before my child dies." (He was still believing that his prayer would be answered). Jesus then gave the man His Word (His Promise), instead of going with him, and here is where we see the 'works of faith' taking action, for the man believed the words of the Son of God. (We want to take note of that, because if we believe His 'written' Word, it should mean the same to us today as His 'spoken' Word meant to that man whose boy was sick.)

"You may return home," replied Jesus; "your son has recovered." He chose to 'believe' the words of Jesus and he started back home;(that is faith in action), and he was already on his way down when his servants met him and told him that his son was alive and well. So, he inquired of them at what hour he had shown improvement. "Yesterday, about seven o'clock," they replied "the fever left him." Then the father recollected that that was the time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son has recovered," and he and his whole household became 'believers'."(That man's 'work of faith' (or his 'faith in action'), bore fruit within his whole household. His faith was(and is) a 'light' for others to see and understand.)

God's written Promises should mean the same to us, as if He were standing here telling us that He has heard and answered our prayers. We want to ask God in a personal, fervent, and private prayer, to reveal the hindrance, or where our faith is 'lacking', and for Him to strengthen our faith, just as Jesus' disciples asked Him, "strengthen our weak faith".

It is the 'believers' responsibility to leave themselves 'open to God's conviction' each day, to be shown why the answers to their prayer (or prayers) have been hindered. Why they have not been receiving when asking in Jesus' Name. Where our faith is lacking, or where we have fallen short in doing God's 'will'.

Jesus explained how important it is for each person to do God's 'will' in everything that we do. (Matt. 7:21-23), "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. (Weymouth.says), "but only those who are obedient to my Father who is in Heaven".) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I

will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Faith and obedience are never separated in Bible teaching)!

Saying, Lord, Lord, but not trusting (nor believing) in God's Son for things in this life, is not doing His 'will', because God's command is to trust in the One whom He has sent. That is God's law for everyone, so it is lawlessness not to put an active faith in God's Son for things in this life. Jesus said "teach them to obey every command which I have given you." (Matt. 28:20).

Many false teachers are prophesying, and telling others of wonders done in Jesus' Name, but most are not doing (nor obeying) God's will themselves, by trust in God's Son for healing, finances, meeting other people right, and many other life issues. "All conduct not based on faith is sinful." (says Rom. 14:23). (repeat) Thus, not acting in faith nor setting an example for others to 'act in faith' is sinful, and it is lawlessness. Jesus said of those who hinder the faith of others by setting wrong examples, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

(Using food as an analogy), the apostle Paul explained even further, that 'brotherly love' should limit the freedom of our own actions. (Rom. 14:15) "If your brother is pained by the food you are eating, your 'conduct' is no longer controlled by love. Take care lest, by the food you eat, you lead to ruin a man for whom Christ died." "Right conduct, peace and joy, through the Holy Spirit;" is what the "Kingdom of God consists of" (he explained vs.17).

"To forego doing anything that tends to your brother's fall, is the right course" (he said, (21). (And, 22) "As for you and your faith, keep your faith to yourself in the presence of God. The man is to be congratulated who does not pronounce judgement on himself in what his actions sanction." Paul concluded that a Christian should not engage in conduct that would defile their own conscience, because their faith is guided by their conscience through the Holy Spirit. (23) "But he who has misgivings and yet eats meat is condemned already, because his conduct is not based on faith; for all conduct not 'based on faith' is sinful."

The second action of receiving through our 'works of faith', is to rejoice and praise and 'thank' God for the deliverance, (even before we see or feel the deliverance or answer to our prayer). That is 'stepping out' in faith (or 'acting out') our faith, because we are 'believing' His Word that our prayer is answered. It is the 'works of faith' that God's Spirit will inspire from within, as we 'believe',... because, Jesus said that the Spirit He would send to us, is for 'believers', (not for unbelievers in the world), because "The world cannot receive Him", Jesus said. (John 14:17).

If we were in a time of trial or going through a temptation from the devil, and we had placed the whole matter in God's hands definitely, for Him to deliver us,... and we really 'BELIEVED' in our heart that we had the answer", (the Pastor queried), "how could we do anything but 'rejoice' (and thank' God). Real faith, 'rejoices in the Promises',... as much as if it sees the deliverance, and is already enjoying it by sight and feeling. (This is because we truly believe on the power of the Atonement Blood of Christ, also, that it supports every promise from God. (2 Cor. 1:19-20) "For Jesus Christ the Son of God-He who was proclaimed among you by us,- did not show Himself a waverer between "Yes" and "No." But it was and always is "Yes" with Him. For all the promises of God, whatever their number, have their confirmation in Him; and for this reason through Him also our "Amen" acknowledges their truth and promotes the glory of God through our faith." (That is receiving by faith,.. it is the 'works of faith', and it is not trying to 'work one's way into Heaven'.)

When we truly believe in what Christ's Atonement sacrifice has accomplished for us, we will be compelled by the Holy Spirit to place our trust on God's promises (not on man's plans and promises), because we feel sure that God is faithful to His.

(Again, 1 John 5:14-15), "And we have an assured confidence that whenever we ask anything in accordance with His will, He listens to us. And since we know that He listens to us, then whatever we ask, we know that we have the things which we have asked from Him." With this being true, why should we ask (for the same thing) again?

The faith of believers (and their corresponding actions) were always linked together in the Bible (and proved successful for them). The lame man carried by four men (Mark 2:), did not go back home discouraged (when he saw the crowd at the door), because he truly believed that the Son of God would heal him. Jesus knew the man's 'heart' (and that he was believing), so He told him his sins were forgiven,... and the man 'believed' His Word. Jesus said, "Rise, take up your mat and go home." "The man rose" (because he believed, and he began to act out genuine faith), "and immediately under the eyes of all, took up his mat and went out. They were all filled with astonishment, gave the glory to God, and said, "We never saw anything like this." The moment the lame man believed the words of Jesus (and acted on them),... health and strength came into his body.

(Luke 17:), Jesus (seeing that they had faith for healing), told the ten lepers (vs.14), "Go and show yourselves to the Priests." And while on their way to do this" (which was their 'works of faith'), "they were made clean."

There was no evidence of healing at that moment. Jesus had only spoken the Word to them, but, they chose to believe His spoken Word (using their 'power of choice', just as we can choose to believe His written Word). They went away acting exactly the same as if they already had their healing, because they were seeing themselves well by faith. By acting out faith, their faith was perfected, and their bodies healed. It is written, "as they went, they were cleansed."

Take notice what Jesus said to the cleansed man. (Vs.19) "Rise and go: your faith has cured you." (The lepers first had to 'believe the Word'. As result, the Holy Spirit then enabled them to 'act in faith,...and they were cured. If they had not first 'believed', they could not have acted out their 'faith',... however, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit is received by 'believers' (not unbelievers).

Acting out our faith because we believe on what the Atonement sacrifice has already done for us, and the spiritual blessing that we will receive from doing so, will result in our wanting to serve and trust God for everything in our life.

Because Abraham first 'believed' in God's promise, he was then able to obey God by leaving his home to travel to an unknown destination, "a place that I will show you",... (was all that God had told him). (Gen. 15:6), "And Abraham believed God, and his faith was placed to his credit as righteousness."

The examples of Abraham, the lame man, the ten lepers (and other Bible examples), all have one thing in common. Their active faith in unseen results ('acting' as if they could already see the results), brought their victory. (1 John 3:22), "and whatever we ask for we obtain from Him, 'because' we obey His commands and do the things which are pleasing in His sight." (23) "And this is His command--that we are to believe in His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us to do."

A close union with Christ, comes through an 'obedient faith' in God (John 15:10, Jesus said), "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Apostle Paul explained (1 Cor. 7:19), "obedience to God's commandments is everything." (And, Gal. 5:), that outward religion means nothing, (6) "The only thing that counts is 'faith' expressing itself through love." A life of trust in Jesus in faith at His feet (because we love Him and want to obey Him), is the only place to receive spiritual growth.

(James 2:14, the apostle was inspired to say), "What good is it, my brethren, if a man professes to have faith, and yet his actions do not correspond? Can such faith save him?" "Thus also

faith by itself, if it does not have works(or actions) is dead.” This vital principal is not recognized by multitudes of people who are not acting in harmony with their professed faith. The average Christian claims to be trusting and believing in God, but in time of temptation and trial they turn their trust to other things. They act opposite from the faith they profess in God, by seeking help from many plans of man.

(In summary), when we truly 'believe', and, as we 'place our trust' on God's Promises (forsaking the inclinations of self), that is faith working through love for Christ. It is evidence that we 'believe' in what the 'power' of His shed blood on the Cross has done for us. We are then on our way toward having the conditions of the Garden of Eden restored in our life, because God has not changed and He will do the same things for us as He did for people in the Bible who acted in faith. Everything in the true Christian life is by 'faith'. We can't be reminded too often of that vital Truth!!

When we refuse to place our trust in something else (because God told us to trust on the One whom He has sent), that is not 'outward works' (nor is it trying to earn our way into Heaven), because it is "by faith" that we are "saved by Grace". It shows, rather, that "those who possess faith... are true sons of Abraham".

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S180R SOME MAIN POINTS OF "FAITH WORKS ACTIVELY", ARE:

1. Active faith is not 'earning' one's way into Heaven.... it is an expression of obedience, because of a genuine love for Christ, and the 'vital' "step unto victory." "The only thing that counts is 'faith' expressing itself through love." (says, Gal. 5:6)
2. Faith is always based on the 'unseen results'...of 'trusting' on what we believe in... so, we should rejoice and give thanks 'before' we see the results.
3. If, (by God's grace and guidance), we can truly understand what Christ's Atonement work on the Cross has accomplished for us, we will take our requests in faith(to the foot of the Cross).
4. A close union with Christ, comes through an 'obedient faith' in God. Everything in the true Christian life is by 'faith', and "by this is God glorified-- by your bearing abundant fruit and thus being true disciples of mine."(John 15:8)