

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

Salvation by His Faith

"Believing in Jesus" alone is not enough to enter Heaven. You hear this statement often today, especially from people standing at a podium, accepting an award, or after winning a championship. Many from different religions believe in Jesus, even in His virgin birth, yet they are not born again. When sharing the Gospel, we sometimes begin by asking if someone believes in God. In many churches, the Pastor might invite the crowd to make a commitment to Christ by believing in Jesus.

But belief in Christ as God alone does not make one born again, and that is the only way into Heaven. Heaven is an exclusive place; only family members are welcome, and no one else can enter. Let's look a little closer at how God can bring us into His family. Being born again isn't just a phrase, it describes a supernatural transformation that happens at salvation. You are literally birthed into God's family, first born into an earthly lineage, then reborn into a heavenly one through Him. From your first breath, your spirit carried a nature of darkness. This wasn't your fault or your parents'; it was the reality of the family line you were born into: the Adamic race. A fallen humanity, separated from God, incapable of redeeming itself.

God couldn't restore that fallen family, He had to create a new one. His desire was to embrace every person with His love and kindness, but they were trapped by the nature of sin. No human effort, no good work, could qualify them for salvation. As much as someone might long for God, the unchangeable reality of sin stood between them and Him. But God, in His mercy, made a way. He began a new family, one born not of sin but of righteousness. He legally introduced Jesus into the human race, born of a virgin, so that He carried no sinful nature but only righteousness. Jesus lived and died without ever participating in sin. Through His resurrection, God created a new family, the children of God, inviting everyone to leave their first birth behind and be born again into a lineage of righteousness. This miracle is the only way to pass from darkness and death into light and life.

The only requirement? Faith in Jesus. Maybe this is where the idea that "believing in Jesus is enough" comes from. But it's not. There's more. Mark 11:23 says, "*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.*" The "mountain" Jesus refers to is the sin nature we are all born with. It's impossible for us to move such a mountain, but God made a way. You were trapped in darkness, and the light was unreachable. But if you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth, that mountain, the sin nature separating you from God, will be cast into the sea. It sounds simple, but here's the issue: the faith required to remove that mountain does not exist in mankind. Another impossibility. Another barrier only God could overcome.

That's why Mark 11:22 says, "*Have faith in God.*" It had to be His faith. He couldn't simply override your free will and do it for you, that's why salvation is an invitation, not something automatic. Instead, He made a way to gift you His faith. We do see faith in the Old Testament as they obeyed God's directions, but that was not enough for salvation. This great cloud of witnesses died in their faith, unable to see the promise of becoming born again as Jesus could not come in their dispensation.

This gift is the key to being born again, as Ephesians 2:4-5 explains: "*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*"

Look closely at how faith is described. It was His faith, given as a gift, that allowed us to believe that the mountain of sin could be removed. Humanity doesn't even possess the ability to believe God for salvation on its own. No human effort can remove the sin nature. Only by His grace do we receive the gift of His faith.

So, the real question to ask about salvation is not, "Do you believe in Jesus?" but rather, "Have you humbled yourself before God to receive the most extraordinary gift in the universe, the faith of God, to switch families and be born from above?" True salvation comes only through surrendering to Him. In that one act of humility, a new creation is born; you may not notice it, but that is also the moment you take your first breath of the life of God. What a celebration the angels in heaven have as they welcome you into the family!

What started in humility must continue in humility; your Father has more of His faith to gift you by His grace. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can receive more and more each day to overcome each and every battle. Every moment you spend praying in the Spirit is an act of humility, allowing His Faith to become yours. What an adventure we are on in this walk of the Spirit. Welcome to the family of God, the family of world changers.

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org