

Think On This



One Faith

The concept of “choosing the faith of your choice,” which is widely promoted and accepted among many who profess Christ, **DOES NOT** originate from the scriptures. The scriptures teach that there is one faith. (Ephesians 4:5) Prior to his crucifixion Jesus prayed for religious unity in **John 17:20-21**, *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”* This unity is possible as one simply follows the inspired word of God. Paul states, *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (Romans 10:17) Again Paul states, *“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”* (Philippians 1:27) Jude teaches, *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”* (Jude 3) These verses clearly teach that there is **ONE FAITH** and that this faith is revealed within the scriptures. Therefore, anyone who teaches otherwise is spreading religious error and promoting disunity which is diametrically opposed to the prayer of our Lord.

Obedience To The Doctrine Of Christ Is A Part Of The One Faith

Many view the “one faith” as the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ; therefore, as long as one believes these facts, it does not matter what doctrine is followed. However, the scriptures teach, *“Whosoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”* (2nd John 9) A study of **Romans 1:5**, *“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name”* and **Romans 16:26**, *“But now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith”* teaches the importance of obedience to the faith. James makes it clear that obedience was necessary as taught in **James 2:26** which states, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* One must understand that the works being spoken of in **James 2:26** are the works of obedience to the teachings of the scriptures. (**1st Thessalonians 2:13 & Philippians 2:12**) It is true that one’s faith must include belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, but acceptable faith also requires obedience to the standard of faith which is the New Testament. (**Hebrews 5:9, Acts 2:37-41, James 1:21-25 & 1st Peter 1:22-25**)

Conclusion

I wish to close this article by asking this question. Is your faith in harmony with the standard revealed within the New Testament? Let us remember that Paul taught, *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified.”* (2nd Corinthians 13:5) Let us make it our aim to follow the example of those who obeyed at Pentecost, *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* (Acts 2:41-42)