

*The* **NATURE**  
*of* **SAVING**  
**FAITH**



Hebrews 11:1-31  
James 2:14-26  
Romans 4:13-25

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH



## NECESSITY of FAITH

Hebrews 11:6  
(NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But without **faith** *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

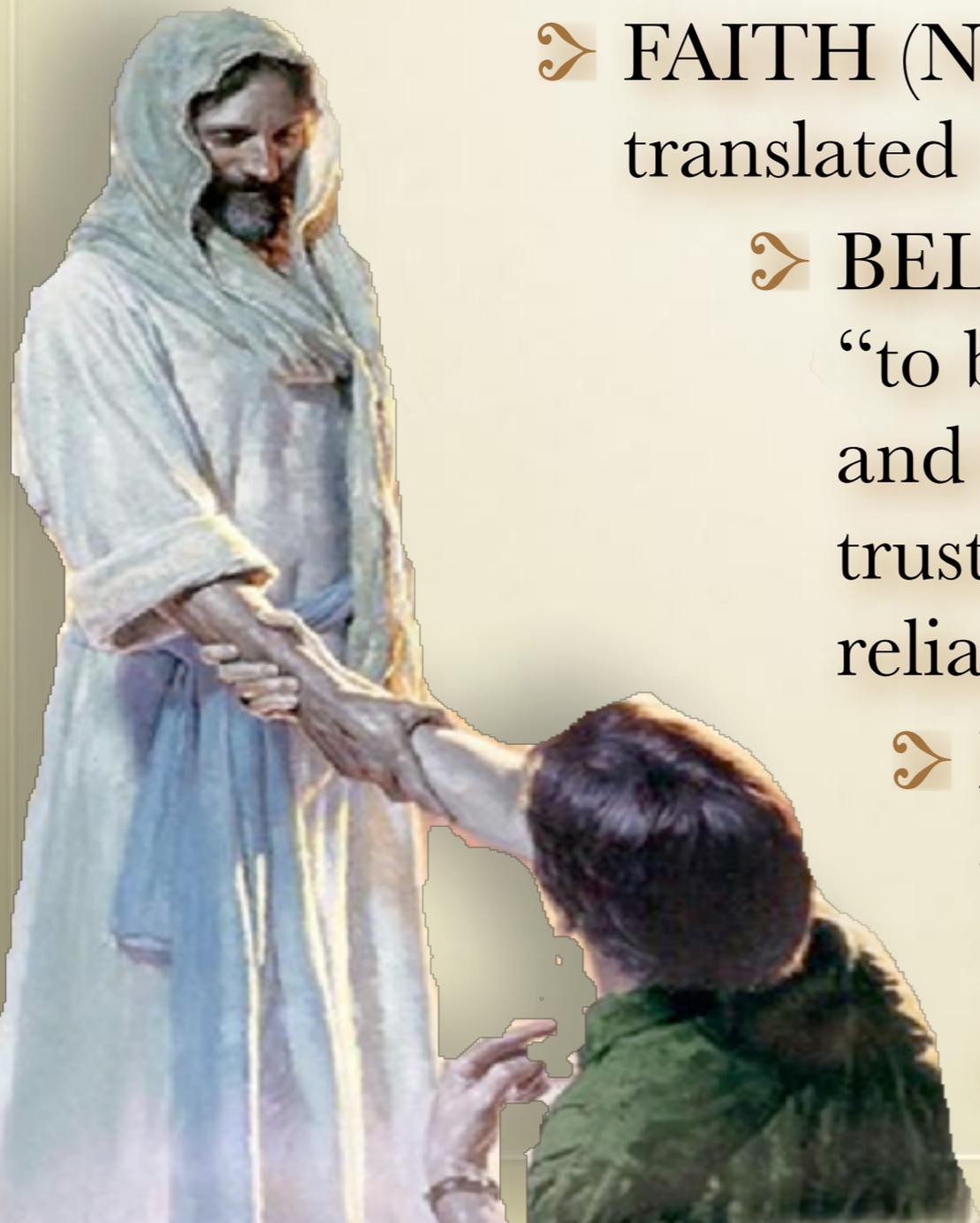
## Defining Faith

FAITH (N) / BELIEVE (V)  
FAITHFUL / BELIEVING (Adj.)

➤ FAITH (N) **pistis** (πίστις, 4102), “faith,” is translated “belief” (2 *Thess.* 2:13).

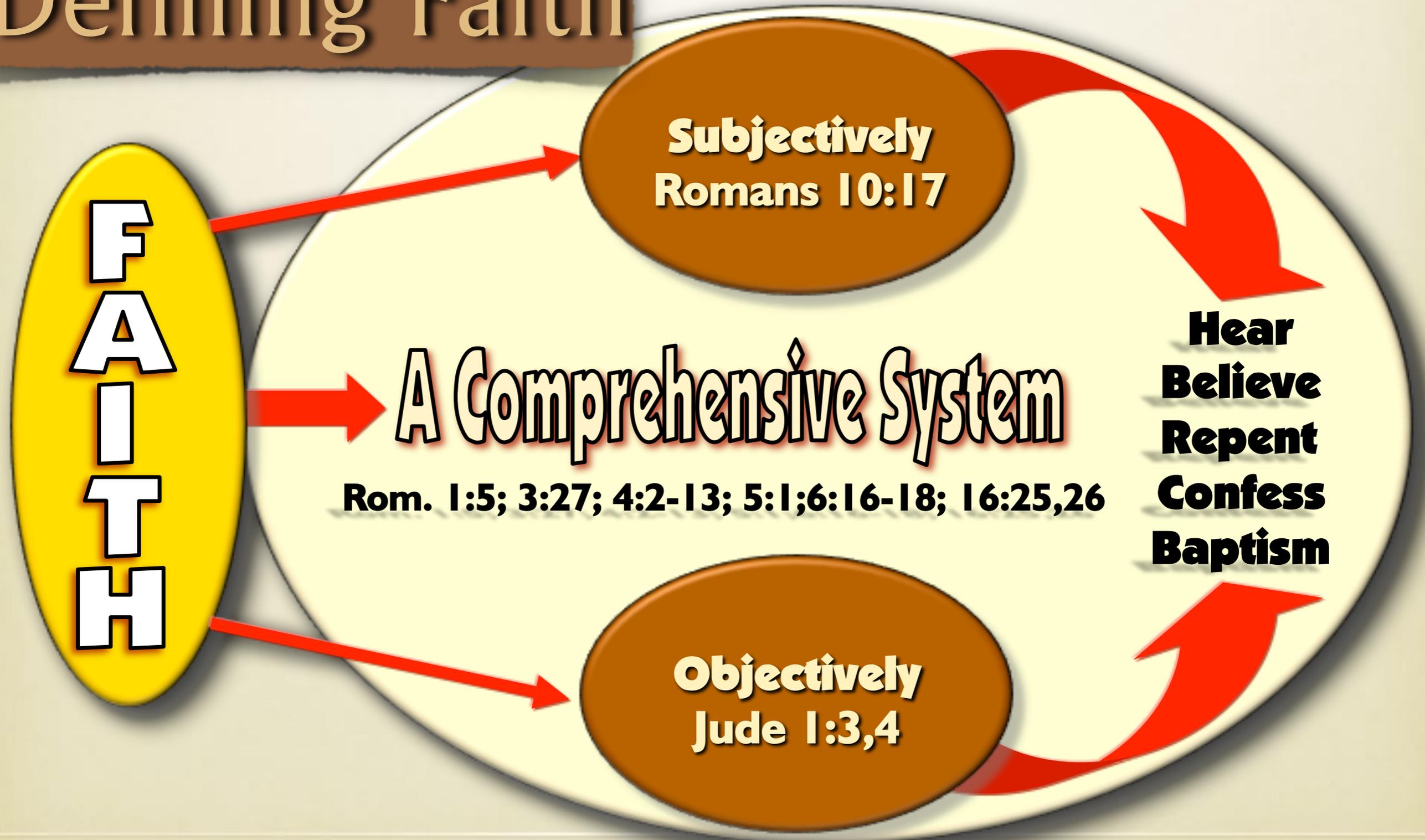
➤ BELIEVE (V) **pisteuo** (πιστεύω, 4100), “to believe,” also “to be persuaded of,” and hence, “to place confidence in, to trust,” signifies, in this sense of the word, reliance upon, not mere credence.

➤ BELIEVER (ADJ.) **pistos** (πιστός, 4103), (a) in the active sense means “believing, trusting”; (b) in the passive sense, “trustworthy, faithful, trustworthy.”



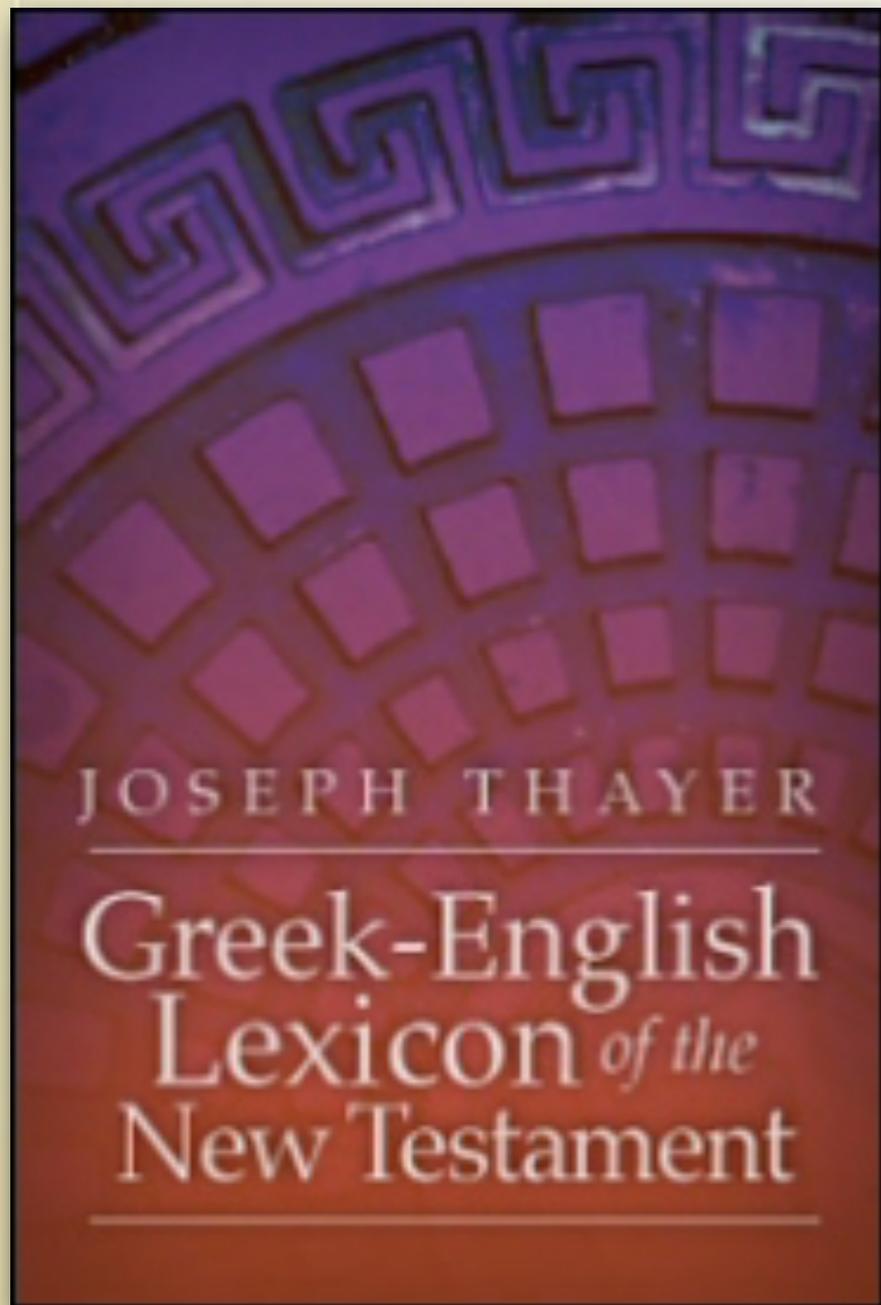
# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Defining Faith



# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Defining Faith



4102. πίστις pistis, pis'-tis; from 3982; "...used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e., a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah -- the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ."

(Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, p. 511)

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Defining Faith

CONVICTION

TRUST

OBEDIENCE

NOT FAITH plus  
WORKS, but FAITH  
that WORKS

Hebrews 11:6  
(NKJV)

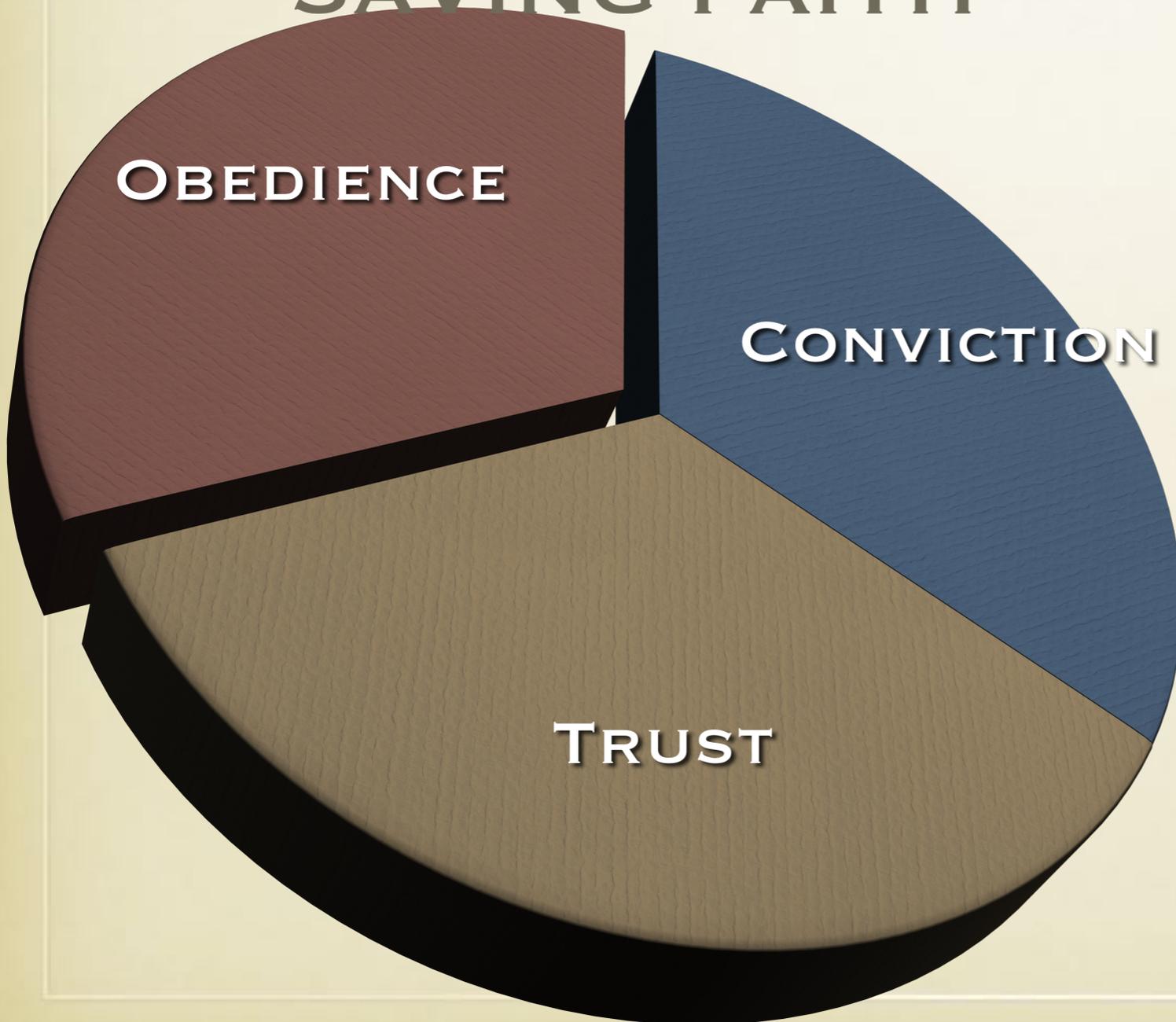
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# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Defining Faith

### SAVING FAITH



NOT FAITH plus  
WORKS, but FAITH  
that WORKS

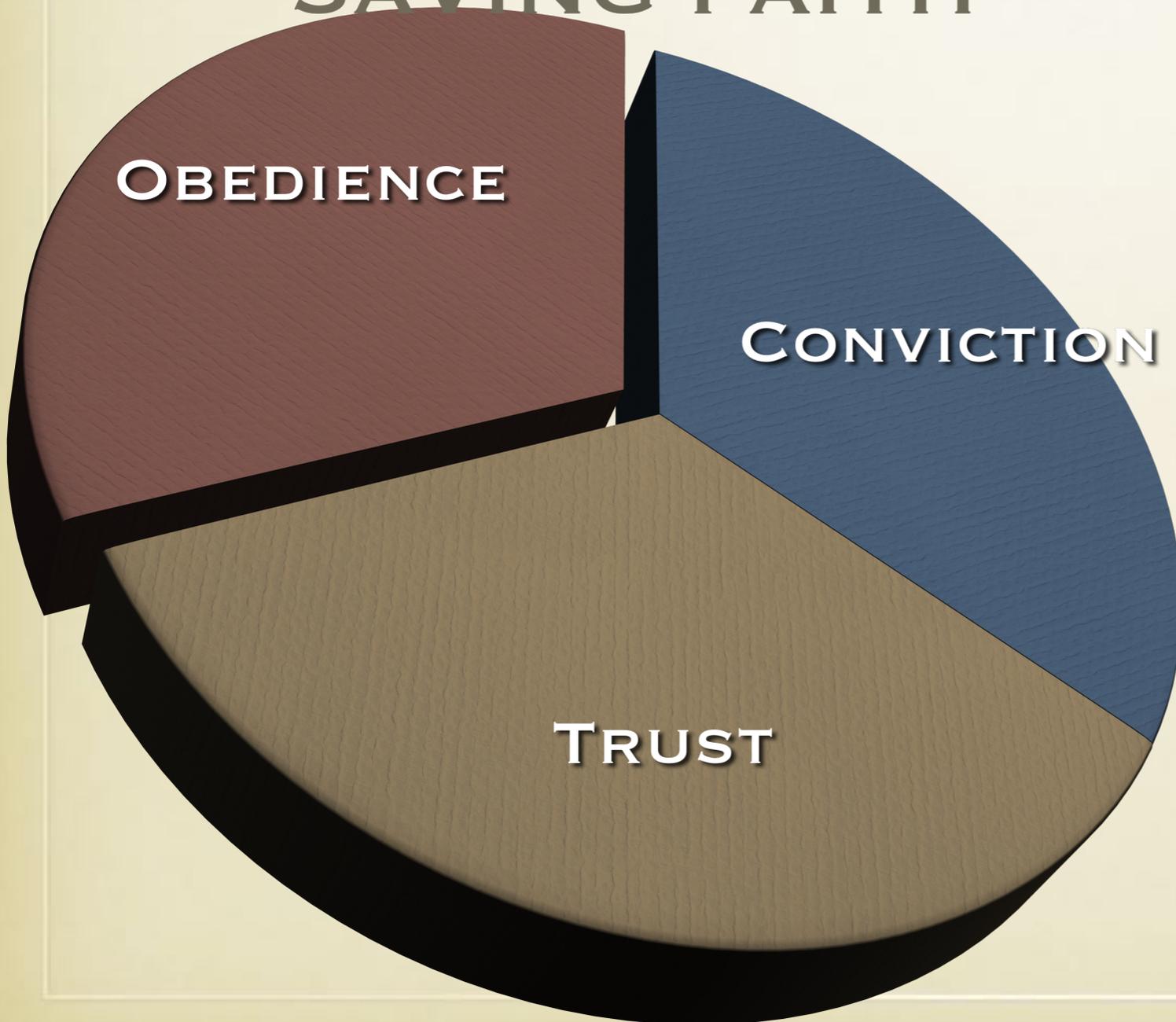
Hebrews 11:6  
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<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Defining Faith

### SAVING FAITH



NOT FAITH plus  
WORKS, but FAITH  
that WORKS

James 2:22  
(NKJV)

22 Do you see that  
faith was working  
together with his  
works, and **by**  
**works faith was**  
**made perfect?**

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Faith Exemplified

### HEBREWS 11 / By FAITH ...

Hebrews 11:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. ...



# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## Faith Exemplified

HEBREWS 11 /  
By FAITH ...

Abel offered - (4)

Enoch pleased God - (5)

Noah built the ark - (7)

Abraham obeyed - (8-10)

Sarah conceived - (11,12)



# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

## Faith Exemplified

HEBREWS 11 /  
By **FAITH** ...

Abraham's sacrifice - (17-19)

Isaac Blessed sons - (20)

Jacob blessed Joseph's sons - (21)

Moses spurned Egypt - (23-27)

Kept passover - (28)



# *The* **NATURE** *of* **SAVING FAITH**

## Faith Exemplified

### HEBREWS 11 / By FAITH ...

Israel crossed R. S. - (29)

Wall of Jericho fell- (30)

Rahab Spared- (31)

Judges, Kings, Prophets  
others- (32-38)



# *The* **NATURE** *of* **SAVING FAITH**

NOT ALL FAITH is SAVING FAITH

James 2:14 (NKJV)  
14 What does *it* profit,  
my brethren, if  
someone says he has  
faith but does not have  
works? Can faith save  
him?



# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## NOT ALL FAITH is SAVING FAITH

James 2:15–17 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does *it* profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.



# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

NOT ALL FAITH is SAVING FAITH

## What does it profit?

- ◆ Hearers but not doers? - 1:22-25
- ◆ Believers who will not confess? - John 12:42; (Rom. 10:9,10)
- ◆ Professors who will not obey? - Luke 6:46; Mat 7:21-23
- ◆ Is it saving faith if it will not confess? repent? be baptized? — (Luke 7:29,30; 2 Thes. 1:7-9)



**James 2:17**  
**(NKJV)**

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

## NOT ALL FAITH is SAVING FAITH



### **James 2:19 (NKJV)**

You believe that  
there is one God.  
You do well. Even  
the demons believe  
—and tremble!

- ◆ Demons believe in the one true God - (Mk 1:24; 5:7; Lk 4:34; Ac. 19:15)
- ◆ Demons believe in the deity of Jesus - (Mark 3:11,12; Luke 8:30,31)
- ◆ Demons believe in hell - (Mt 8:29)
- ◆ Demons believe Jesus is judge and will condemn - (Mark 5:1-13)

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of **FAITH** that **SAVES**

**James 2:21 (NKJV)** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?



- ◆ Abraham was **JUSTIFIED** by works - (*justified, [dikaiosune - δικαιοσύνη] same term as in Rom 4:2,3,5,6; 6:16*)
- ◆ Abraham trusted God to the max when he obeyed God by offering Isaac! - (Heb 11:17; Rom 4:19-22; Gen 22:1-19)

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of **FAITH** that **SAVES**

**NOT Saved  
By Works,  
ROMANS 4:1-6**

Justified  
Counted for  
righteousness  
Fulfilled  
Genesis 15:6  
Strong  
Not of works

**“WORKS used in two  
different senses**



**WHAT Kind of FAITH  
did Abraham Have?**

**Saved By  
Works,  
JAMES 2:21-24**

Justified  
Counted for  
righteousness  
Fulfilled  
Genesis 15:6  
Perfect  
By works

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of **FAITH** that **SAVES**

Different Usages of the word **WORKS** ...

**WORKS**

## **Of Merit**

**Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5**

## **A System of Sinless Perfection**

**Romans 3:27; 4:2-8; 11:6**

## **Of Faith**

**1 Thes 1:3; James 2:14-26**  
*(Defines the kind of faith that saves)*

**INCLUDES:**  
Receiving the word  
Confession  
Repentance  
Baptism  
Faithfulness

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of **FAITH** that **SAVES**



**James 2:21 (NKJV)** <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

- ◆ Faith motivated his obedience, which rendered his faith complete, therefore effectual - (22; Heb 11:17-19; Gal 5:6)

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

The kind of FAITH that SAVES



James 2:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*” And he was called the friend of God.

- ◆ Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness when he obeyed! - (23a; Gen 15:6; Rom 4:3; Gal. 3:6-8)
- ◆ Abraham was called the friend of God! - (23b; Is 41:8; 2 Chron 20:7)

# *The* **NATURE** *of* **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of FAITH that SAVES



**James 2:24**  
**(NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

The kind of FAITH that SAVES

## What About Ephesians 2:8,9?

Ephesians 2:8–9  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ◆ Salvation is a gift of God which no man deserves – Rom 3:23
- ◆ Salvation is received through the means of our faith – John 3:16; 8:24; Heb 11:6; Rom 10:17
- ◆ Salvation not earned through our own merits – Rom. 11:6
- ◆ No man can boast before God – Rom. 4:2; 3:23

# *The* **NATURE** *of* **SAVING FAITH**

**God's Universal  
Kindness, Love &  
Mercy.**

**The  
Basis of  
(Not of  
WORKS)**

**The Gracious  
Gift of God's  
Son & The  
Gospel -**

**The  
Conditions  
We MUST  
meet  
(WORKS)**

**Salvation**

**Faith – (Repent –  
Confess – Be baptized  
- Persevere)**

**The  
Provision  
of  
(Not of  
WORKS)**



# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

The kind of **FAITH** that **SAVES**

## What About Ephesians 2:8,9?

Ephesians 2:8–9  
(NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- ◆ Noah saved by grace through faith – Gen. 6:8; Heb 11:7
- ◆ Naaman healed by grace through faith – 2 Kings 5:1-19; Lk 4:27
- ◆ Walls of Jericho fell by grace through faith – Joshua 6:2,15,16,20; Heb 11:30
- ◆ The **FAITH** that obeys does not nullify God's grace - but receives it!!

# The **NATURE** of **SAVING FAITH**

**SAME PRINCIPLE IN EVERY AGE ...**

## **FAITH THAT CAN'T SAVE**

**Inactive**

**Unfruitful**

**Disobedient**

**Incomplete**

**Dead**

## **FAITH THAT WILL SAVE**

**Active**

**Fruitful**

**Obedient**

**Complete**

**Alive**

# *The* **NATURE** *of* **SAVING FAITH**

**SAME PRINCIPLE IN EVERY AGE ...**

**GOD  
SPEAKS**

**MAN  
HEARS**

**MAN  
OBEYS BY  
FAITH**

**GOD  
SAVES**

**NOAH** - Gen. 6:8,13-17; 22; 7:5; Heb 11:7

**ABRAHAM** - Gen 12:4; 15:6; 17:10,23; 22:3,16-18

**ISRAEL** - Ex. 12:13; 14:30; Dt 30:15-19; Jos 6; 1 Cor 10:1-13

**US** - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12,37; Rom 6:3-6; 10:9-13; Gal.  
3:26,27; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Pet 3:21; 1 Jn 1:9

# The NATURE of SAVING FAITH

## The kind of FAITH that SAVES



- ◆ The only viable faith is the faith that obeys God! — (James 2:14-26; Heb. 11)
- ◆ What KIND of FAITH did Abraham Have? — (Gen 12-22; Rom 4:12,23)
- ◆ What kind of FAITH do you have? — (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:37,38,41; Gal. 3:26,27)





*The* **NATURE**  
*of* **SAVING**  
**FAITH**

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# HEBREWS 11:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

# HEBREWS 11:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “*and was not found, because God had taken him*”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

# HEBREWS 11:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."

## Salvation by the Installment Plan?

by Phil Congdon

Many Bible teachers are fond of a saying that goes like this: "You are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone." Doesn't that sound neat? It states a fundamental truth--that we are saved by faith alone--then turns around and states that while it is faith alone that saves us, that faith is never alone. This saying is used to teach the idea that if a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ, but doesn't live a right kind of life, they aren't saved. But wait a minute; let's plug in our logical minds for a minute and see if this is really neat-or nonsense.

The phrase "You are saved by faith alone" is obviously true. Scripture repeatedly tells us that it is faith alone without works which saves (e.g., Eph. 2:8-9). But what does the second phrase say? Incredibly it says exactly the opposite. We can paraphrase the saying this way: "Faith [in Christ] alone saves you, but if your faith [in Christ] is alone, it doesn't save you." This kind of illogical thinking allows some theologians to turn the truth of the gospel on its head and make salvation a result of faith plus good works.

In response, these teachers state that they do not mean **faith + works = salvation** but rather **faith = salvation + works**. But the end result is the same. If I pay cash for a car and drive it home, it is no different than if I were to drive it home and pay for it over the next few years. It doesn't matter when you pay--before or after you take possession. If you ever have to do good works to be saved, salvation isn't free, it's something you earn.

The Apostle Paul knew this. That's why he wrote, "To the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness" (Rom. 4:5). — <https://faithalone.org/magazine/y1989/89oct1.html>