

By this is meant faith in the written Word of Scripture, the Bible. The Bible, and the Bible alone, is our final authority in matters of faith and life. Its authority does not derive from or rest in human reason or experience or judgment or even the church, but derives from and rests wholly in God.

Scripture authenticates itself, by means of the testimony of the Holy Spirit. The Christian looks at the Bible and says, "This is it." This does not mean that it is necessary to accept everything in the Bible to enter salvation, but sooner or later this is the position to which the believer comes.

3. The third object or sphere or realm of revelation is saving revelation; i.e., revelation concerning Christ's person and saving work; and the faith that operates within this sphere is called "saving faith." *Overhead*

C. Are there kinds of faith that are not true saving faith?

There are at least three forms of faith that fall short of true saving faith. We may call them historical faith, temporary faith, and miraculous faith.

1. Historical faith accepts the truths of revelation as one might accept a history that does not vitally concern him, or in which he is not personally interested or involved. It is a mere intellectual acceptance of the truth, lacking any moral or spiritual purpose.

In speaking before King Agrippa, Paul, in Acts 26:26-28, says:

The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.' Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?' "

2. Temporary faith is a persuasion of the truths of revelation which is accompanied by some prompting of conscience and stirring of the emotions, but is not permanent, and fails to maintain itself in days of trial and persecution. It may seem genuine, but is temporary in nature.

In the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:20-22, our Lord says:

What was sown on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at