

# Forgiveness

## The Nature of Faith

### Discuss It:

What is faith and what does it involve?

### Dig In:

#### Confusion over believe

Many people seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ about whether or not they have really believed.

Others are certain they believe, but when pressed for details, they are not exactly sure what they believe. Their content of people's faith is largely \_\_\_\_\_.

The use of the term \_\_\_\_\_ in connection with forgiveness is not the way we commonly use the word believe \_\_\_\_\_.

We may say "I believe it will snow tonight" We are using "believe" to mean the idea of "\_\_\_\_\_ hope."

Or a person may say "I believe in God" which in this case denotes "\_\_\_\_\_ consent," but not the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ or commitment.

Given the way we use the word believe today, its easy to see why someone can express a belief in something yet have no personal \_\_\_\_\_.

A person can verbally express faith having not expressed \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

#### Biblical Faith

When discussing Biblical faith, the word \_\_\_\_\_ must be used in connection with faith.

The difference between "belief" as used today and Biblical faith, is illustrated by acknowledging that a bridge is capable of holding a person's weight, but, actually walking out on the bridge shows faith.

Biblical faith, the type of faith that serves as the door to \_\_\_\_\_, assumes a relationship of actual dependence and reliance. As quoted from Webster's Dictionary

“Biblical faith, or trust, is the assured reliance on God: A confident dependence on the character, ability, strength, and truth of God and His promises.”

The object of \_\_\_\_\_ faith must be Christ, not simply God (or god), the goodness of God, or faith itself. Jesus points to this truth in John 14:16

Forgiveness is available to any man or woman who put their \_\_\_\_\_ trust in Christ. The New Testament writers were calling people to place their trust in the person of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life. A personal \_\_\_\_\_ to dependency upon Christ for forgiveness. John 3:16

## Appropriating the Gift

God's gift of forgiveness must be \_\_\_\_\_; that is, it must be accepted on an individual basis. Even though Christ died to pay for the sins of the world, and even though God's forgiveness is a universal offer, it has no effect on our \_\_\_\_\_ until we personally put our trust in Christ. It is like a paycheck that is never picked up, cashed, deposited or used in any way. Christ constantly reiterated the need to appropriate His offer. John 4:10, John 5:40, John 6:53, John 8:51, John 10:9

## What About You

That brings us to an important question. Has there been a time in your life when you personally placed your \_\_\_\_\_ in the death of Christ to be the payment for your sin?

Remember just knowing the truth is not enough. Knowing the gospel is only the first step. \_\_\_\_\_ comes through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

Regardless of what you have done or how many times you have done it or who you have hurt in the process, complete forgiveness is available if you are willing to \_\_\_\_\_ it. It is available through trusting in the death of Christ.

If, on the other hand, you know that you have placed your trust in the death of Christ for the payment of your sin, I can say with full assurance, “You are \_\_\_\_\_!” -past,

present and future. No more saying “I hope so” or “I think so.” You can say, “I know so!”

Once forgiveness is settled in your life, when Satan accuses you, you can reply “That is exactly right, I did that and more. But, before I ever committed my first sin Jesus Christ died and paid for my sins –not just the ones you have reminded me of –ALL of them. Now they stand in my past as memorials, of God’s goodness and grace toward me. Thanks for the reminder.”

Portions of this lesson have been gleaned from “The Gift of Forgiveness” by Charles Stanley