**Scripture Reading:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Singing:** 241:1, 2, 7, 9 – 152:1-5 – 362:1-3 – 71:1, 4-5

**True Faith**

I. Author II. Means III. Place IV. **Elements** V. Exercises VI. Benefit

**I. Review of *The Author – Means – Place of faith***

A. Saving Faith is *God-given – God-worked – God-maintained*

1. Eph. 1:18-20; 2:8 & Canon III/IV art 14

B. Means by which God works saving faith: *preaching of God’s Word*

1. Romans 10: 14-17; Eph. 1:13; Canons 1, 3 & III/IV, 17

C. Place :*Holy Ghost works in* ***my heart***and from heart *affects all of life*

1. 1 Thes 1:5, 9-10

**IV. Elements of True Saving Faith**

A. What is faith?

1. Review of the Bible words for faith and believe

a. H: *he’emin:* to be firm – established – regard as true – confidence

b. H: *batach*: to confide – trust – lean upon

c. H: *chasah*: to hide oneself – flee for refuge

d. G: *pistis*: conviction – confiding trust – resting on testimony

2. True saving faith: *certain knowledge and assured confidence*

B. Certain knowledge: *the foundation of saving faith*

1. faith is not without feelings but is based on knowledge of God’s truths

a. understanding the distinction between *head & heart knowledge*

• it is not ***head knowledge*** *vs.* ***heart feelings***

• it is ***unsanctified*** *vs.* ***sanctified knowledge*** *(experimental)*

b. as Spirit of God *enlightens mind with knowledge, we* responds!

2. ***certain******knowledge***: steadfast, certain, thorough, not misleading

a. whereby *I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in Word*

(1) knowledge regarding God

(2) knowledge regarding self

(3) knowledge regarding sin

(4) knowledge regarding Jesus Christ

(5) knowledge regarding Gospel promises

C. **But also an assured confidence**

1. without this assured confidence it is impossible to *experience joy of*

*salvation – peace of heart – comfort of the Holy Ghost*

2. definition of *assured confidence*:

a. a trust that *Gospel truths are true for me personally*

• Gospel is proclaims to us that God is ready to pardon us is *certain knowledge*  Acts 3:19, 26; 13:38

• but to believe that they are personally to me is *assured*

*confidence*

3. God not promises forgiveness through Christ but *every other*

*gracious benefit of salvation merited by Christ*

a. *certain knowledge* is knowing the content of the Gospel as true

b. *assured confidence* is believing they are *true for me*

4. The pinch of faith is *exactly on that point:* ***is it for me also?***

**Closing Application**

A. Don’t conclude from this answer that *a believer is only ‘certain/assured’*

1. Catechism describes ***nature of true faith* not the *practice of faith***

a. true believers like Rebecca: *Esau & Jacob wrestling within*

b. the faith God plants in sinner is *like the gold found in soil*

Saving faith is not consenting to a proposition

but commitment to a Person

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Saving faith is repentant faith

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Saving faith is not creative but receptive. It does not make our salvation but it receives it gratefully like Simeon in the temple.