**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 3:16 – 4:3; 10:35 – 11:6; 12:1-2

**Singing:** 229:1, 3, 4 – 362:1-3 – 366:1-3 – 100:1-4

**True Faith**

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

I. Review of **Saving Faith**

A. Saving faith is *entirely* the *gift of God* (Hebrews 12:2)

B. Saving faith is *like a new ability given* to an elect sinner

 1. Includes *both* certain knowledge and assured confidence

 2. Saving Faith compared to *new creation - child within person*

 a. always begins small and matures with time and exercise

 b. Bible speaks about different *degrees of saving faith (1 John 2)*

 c. both *knowledge* and *confidence* grow as Spirit of God *reveals*

 *more through His Word* (Luke 24:27 & 45)

d. younger children and young believers are similar

e. how we deal with younger children is how we should deal with

 young believers: *disciple them*

 3. Each “stage of life” has *exercises corresponding to maturity level*

 a. the newborn child is *a complete person yet immature*

b. the infant believer is a *believer though immature in the exercises*

 *of faith*

**V. Various Exercises of True Saving Faith as seen in Scripture**

A. Mark 10:47-51 *… crying after God*

B. Matt. 5:6  *… hunger and thirst after righteousness*

C. Luke 18:13-14 *… looking to God’s mercy*

D. John 6:35  *… coming unto Jesus*

E. John 6:53-54 *… eating and drinking* *the flesh and blood of Christ*

F. Rom. 13:14  *… putting on the Lord Jesus Christ*

G. John 1:12 *… as many as received Him*

**Closing observations:**

* Be careful not to follow Thomas-road to assurance
* We are to labor at Christ’s feet with *Increase our faith*
* Saving faith is the *evidence of our election*

Saving faith is a heartfelt trust in Christ – and through Him in God – in order to be justified, sanctified and glorified, leaning upon Christ’s voluntary offer of Himself and upon His promises that He will perform this to all who receive Him and rely upon Him to that end. (W. Brakel)

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No man’s salvation depends on his *believing that he believes*, but it does depend on his seeing and receiving Jesus Christ as His Savior. (M. Vincent)

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Simple faith honors God and God honors simple faith. (Mary Winslow)

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A weak faith still receives a strong Christ. (Thomas Watson)

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We must not receive Christ because we *feel* Him but because God has *said* it, and we must take God’s Word *even in the dark*. (Robert M’Cheyne)