

Where Does Faith Come from

by John Piper

This sermon delves into the concept of faith as an act or experience of the soul, emphasizing that faith originates within the individual and is ultimately a gift from God. It explores the idea that faith is not something we possess inherently but is bestowed upon us by God's grace, highlighting the biblical perspective that all individuals are sinners and dead in their trespasses and sins, with faith being a divine gift that rules out boasting. The message underscores the distinction between earning a wage through sin and receiving the gift of eternal life through faith.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8, Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 4:7

Topics: "Faith as a Gift", "Grace and Salvation"

Description

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Transcript

Faith is an act or an experience of the soul. It doesn't happen outside. It happens in the soul, in you.

It's your act. And so, the first and obvious answer is faith comes from you. It isn't coming from you.

It's not yours and you don't have faith. But when I ask the question, where does it come from? I'm pushing this back further than that. I want to ask the question, why you, if you have, a dead, spiritually dead, spiritually blind unbeliever, one day were quickened to life and had your eyes enabled to see Christ as compellingly real, whereas another person, reading the same Bible, hearing the same message, didn't.

And the biblical answer to that, the ultimate biblical answer to that is that you are, and I am, all of us are, sinners, dead in our trespasses and sin, a veil lies upon our minds, and God, in His mercy, owing us nothing, enabled some of you to see what you nor anybody didn't deserve. You didn't deserve that. Nobody deserves it.

The ultimate answer to the question, where does faith come from, is that it's a gift of God arising in the soul, Ephesians 2.8, by grace you have been saved through faith. This is not your own doing, it is the gift

of God, which is why Paul says it rules out boasting. It's one of the reasons, there are more.

You can't boast in a gift. If you boast in a gift as though you deserve the gift, it's not a gift, it's a wage. The Bible clearly distinguishes in Romans 6.23 the wages of sin and the gift of eternal life.

If you deserve, you get a wage. If you don't deserve, you get a gift. Faith is a gift, 1 Corinthians 4.7. What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? You see, in Paul's mind, the relationship between boasting and gifts, if you produce your faith, you can boast in it.

If it's a gift, you can't.

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