

“Foundations of Faith”
King of Kings Lutheran Church
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

“Belonging through Faith”

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

The goal and prayer as we begin “Belonging through Faith” is that you will fully understand and appreciate the fact that salvation through Jesus Christ is a gift from God, through the Holy Spirit. We receive this gift through faith in the saving work of Jesus on our behalf. There is no other way.

Through faith we “hold on” to the grace of God. Faith makes the gift a personal reality.

SUMMARY FROM PREVIOUS CLASS:

Salvation is not _____ but _____.

Romans 9:16, *“Salvation does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.”*

- 1) If you were to die tonight, would you go to Heaven?
- 2) If God were to ask you, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?” what would you tell Him?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF FAITH?

- 1) How does “the” gift become “my” gift?

John 3:16, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*



- 2) **Believing is about receiving. We do not just believe in our brain that Jesus is real or that He died on the cross and rose again. We actually receive *Him* (His Spirit, His life, His love) into our hearts by believing Him.**

John 1:12, *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”*

The Message paraphrase of John 1:12, “But whoever did want Jesus, who believed He was who He claimed and that He would do what He said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.”

3) The only thing that now condemns (damns) anyone (separates them from God) is unbelief, that is, not receiving Jesus into one’s life. Without Jesus, we remain in our sins and separated from God and His life.

John 8:24, *“I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the One I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”*

John 3:17-18, *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because He has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”*

Hebrews 11:6, *“And without faith it is impossible to please God...”*

WHAT A DEAL! BUT IT IS NO GAME

1) So can I do anything I want?

- Is there any sin for which Jesus has not already paid the price with His blood? No. Through faith in Jesus’ love and sacrifice, you are forgiven.

Matthew 9:2, *“Jesus said, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’”*

- “Can I do anything I want,” is not really the question. The question now is, “What do I want to do?”

Romans 6:1-2, *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”*

2) This is the mark of whether or not the Good News of Jesus has really been believed and received: a new heart evidenced by a _____ life.

- This is not about perfect living but new desires and changed living.

John 14:23, *“Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teachings.’”*

2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

3) Remember: God’s grace is free but it is not cheap.

- It is a gift given, but it cost Jesus everything.

4) Finally, don’t play games with God. Do not mock His love.

Jude 1:4, *“Godless men change the grace of our God into a license for immorality...”*

Galatians 5:13, *“You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature...”*

- Our willful disobedience doesn't change God or His love for us. It changes us. Our heart becomes harder and our ear more dull to His voice. When we willfully walk away from God there is no guarantee we will respond to Him again. And that is too dangerous to take lightly.

I WANT TO BELONG TO JESUS' FAMILY!

Jesus **wants** you to belong, too! He **invites** you to belong. He died on the cross and rose again so you **could** belong. You've been outside His family long enough. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done; it doesn't matter where you've been or how long you've been there. He calls **you** to come home tonight.

Romans 1:6, *“And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 6:2, *“I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.”*

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Acts 16:30-31, *“‘What must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.’”*

John 5:24, *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears My words and believes...has crossed over from death to life.”*

You don't do anything. It's a gift to receive. **God** has already done what is necessary! That's why it is called **“grace”**. Jesus died on the cross and rose again for the forgiveness of your sins. Do you believe this? _____

If you answered positively, then you are saved! Your sins are forgiven. Your life is redeemed. Your name is received into the family of God.

John 1:12, *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”*

WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Mark 9:24, *“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”*

1) Trusting Jesus and following Him is not just for people who have no more questions and have done away with all doubt. In fact, there are no such people!

- Faith means you have enough evidence to begin trusting and following Jesus.

- Faith means you have enough evidence to know Jesus is real and trustworthy and that you want to begin a relationship with Him.
- Faith means you are ready to begin a new life with Jesus even if you still have questions. In fact, when you begin your journey with Jesus, that's when you will begin to find more and more answers and experiences that verify your faith!

2) You can authentically trust Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and the salvation of your soul and continue to search for the answers to questions and doubts that remain. In fact such searching is crucial for continued growth.

3) You have questions? We have answers!

- Get together with a Pastor to sort through the questions and doubts (319-393-2438).
- Email Pastor Mark (pastor@kingofkingscr.org) or Pastor Rich (rbalvanz@kingofkingscr.org)
- Get a copy of "The Case for Christ" available any Christian bookstore

NOW WHAT?

It does not matter whether you are a new Christian, a revived Christian, or a life-long Christian. Jesus calls each of us to a process of spiritual health and growth that includes the following:

1) Read your Bible everyday to get to know Jesus better.

John 6:63, *"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

- Do you need a Bible? We would love to give you one.

2) Talk with God every day in prayer.

- How do you get started? Tomorrow morning, get up 15 minutes earlier. Read a couple verses of the Gospel of John. Then listen to what God brings to you through that verse. Ask Him questions. Continue listening. Finally, offer up your day, your loved ones, your thanksgivings and concerns to God in prayer. Be quick to turn to Him all day long.

3) Get connected in Christian community with other believers for worship, growth, and encouragement. Of course we suggest King of Kings.

- Establish the habit of weekly worship
- Continue to study God's Word in adult Bible classes on Sunday and with members of a Life Group at other times.

- By the conclusion of the “Foundations of Faith” class we will help you find a good fit with your friends at King of Kings.

Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together as is the **habit** of some...”

4) Look for opportunities to bless other people in service like Jesus did.

John 13:35, *“All men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.”*

5) Tell someone about your (new) faith