

## What Must I Believe and What Does it Mean to “Believe”?

The two most important theological words are “Salvation” and “Faith”. The two go together but often we are not clear on either of their meaning. For John, when one believes he or she receives eternal life (Et. Salvation) Jo.1:12, 2;23, 5:24, 6:40,48 20:30-31. What does faith mean?

### I. The Terms for Faith

Noun- Pistis Faith, Trust,

Verb – Pisteuo Believe, Persuaded, Rely Upon, Allegiance (Commit ? Surrender?)

Does the word imply obedience, total allegiance, reliance or total commitment?

If yes, then how much is enough? What is total commitment? How would you know if you have it?

### II. The Teaching about Faith

#### A. The Active Option

##### 1. The Concept Argument

\* Knowledge of (Notia)

\* Acceptance as true (Accensus)

\* Trust in...Volition (Fiducia)

Rom. 1:5, 16:26 The Obedience of faith

(But what if faith is not active or fully active? How much inactivity can there be and still have faith? How little activity invalidates faith?)

##### 2. The Continuation Argument

Saving faith is in the present tense and is always continual.

(But what about Peter, Solomon, David, Israel, me?)

##### 3. The Construction Argument

\* Faith with certain syntactical relationships is saving  
Present tense and active voice or in a participle form

\* Faith with certain prepositions is saving

Believe “in” εν or εις

Believe “that” οτι

##### 4. The Counterfeit Argument

John 2:23

Acts 8:13

2 Tim 4:3,7,9

Luke 8:6ff

GBC JH  
Fred Chay

B. The Passive Option

1. Faith is pure receptivity- (Accept the gift)

Faith is a passive response to the act of the giver of the gift (The open hand)

Eph 2:8-10

Rom 4:1ff

Gal 2:16

Acts 16:31

2. Faith is Defectable

I Cor 3:1,15

Lk 8:6

I Cor 9:24-27

I John 2:28

II Tim 2:13

II Tim 4:7,10

I John 2:15

3. The Gift is Irrevocable

John 5:24

John 10:28

Rom. 8:28-39

John 6:40, 58

The most important question is: Who is the object of your faith?

How Much Faith is Enough?

To be born again- one act of faith  
Justification

To live the Christian life- a life of faithfulness  
Sanctification