

February 23, 2020



## "SAVING FAITH"

John Greene, *Senior Pastor*

**JOHN 2:23-25 (NASB)** *"Now, when Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, **many believed in His name**, observing His signs which He was doing. **But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men**, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man."*

**TRUTH:** They believed that He was the Messiah, but they didn't surrender their souls to His Lordship.

**QUESTION:** How do you know that the faith you have is saving faith? How do you know the faith you profess will get you to heaven?

### I. THE ASSURANCE OF A FAVORITE HYMN

**TRUTH:** Sinners come to Christ on the basis of faith alone: they are to come, and He will save them (John 3:16, 6:37).

### II. THE CORRUPTION OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR DAY

**INSIGHT:** Intellectual agreement to the gospel alone without a turning from a habitual life of sin isn't biblical salvation (James 2:17).

**TRUTH:** There is a false faith, and its mark is this: It's a faith that ultimately changes nothing (2 Peter 2:22).

**INSIGHT:** Finney believed theologically that salvation was a result of a human choice.

**INSIGHT:** Finney began to call people in an invitation time to what he called the "anxious bench."

**TRUTH:** It isn't Bible preaching to ask people only to believe the facts of the gospel (Luke 14:25-27).

**INSIGHT:** There are always professors who stay for a while but disappear (John 15:1-6).

**TRUTH:** There is a faith that doesn't save; it's the faith that fails, Judas faith (1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Colossians 1:21-23).

**TRUTH:** The implication is clear that if we move away and don't continue in the faith, we never were truly saved. We didn't lose our salvation, we never had it!

**TRUTH:** The identifying mark of true faith is perseverance (James 1:2-4, 12; 2 Timothy 2:12).

### **III. IDENTIFYING MARKS OF TRUE FAITH**

1. It's a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 6:44).
2. Saving faith is permanent (Romans 1:17).
3. Saving faith is obedient (Philippians 2:13).

\*How to know you have *saving faith*:

1 Peter 2:7: To those who believe, Christ is precious.