

Beyond A Superficial Faith

Promise: The Son alone can free us from sin, death, and the devil

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; [John 8:31-36](#)
(Reformation Sunday, 10/2520)

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. – v. 21b

Lead In – I want you to picture a hypothetical situation. You go to the doctor and have an examination. It may have been because of some symptom bothering you, or it may have been a routine exam. In any event, following the examination you are presented with a rather serious diagnosis. You have a disease which left untreated would be fatal... The good news is, there is a remedy. And the needed medication is made available... This scenario may help us get at what Jesus is communicating in our lesson...

I. Jesus' Words to Those Who Had Believed In Him

- Trying to consider just who Jesus is referring to...
- What believing in Jesus might have meant...
- Is Jesus saying something other than having faith?

II. Seamless Connection: Word-Truth-Son of God

- Different ways of saying "faith in Christ alone"...
- Abiding gives a proper dynamic idea of faith...
- We are being pressed to abide or continue...

III. So Do We Cooperate With the Gift of Faith?

- Unregenerate man can do nothing!
- Things change when faith is kindled by the Word...
- Not the way two horses draw a wagon together!

Parting Shot – So let us return to our picture of the Doctor's diagnosis. Whether we feel symptoms, or feel terrorized, if we do not acknowledge his diagnosis and need for a remedy, we surely won't take the prescribed medicine. Here the diagnosis and our acknowledgment is the work of the Law of God, and the acknowledgment is the resulting repentance. Taking the medicine and continuing to take it is the work of the Gospel. And because it needs to continue to be taken, it is those who abide in it that who will be saved...

Jn 8:30 As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

Initial believing in Jesus: That he spoke with power. That he could heal and perform miracles. That he could take on the hypocritical religious leaders that took advantage of them. That, maybe, just maybe, he might be the Messiah...

True Freedom: Is deliverance from sin, death, and the devil. We await the fullness of this deliverance....

Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jn 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Definition of Saving Faith: Trusting in Christ alone. So it is more than intellectual assent.

John 8:31-36 ESV

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Jn 15:5-6 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Php 3:12b-14 I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Jn 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail.

Eph 2:1-2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.

Jn 3:3 Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

We are not a stone of block. A stone or block cannot resist. We can and do...

2 Cor 6:1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

The beginning of the new life within us, weak and incomplete until that day...

Ga 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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