



From Belief to Faith

- Phil 3:4 If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:
⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.
- ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.



1. Believing the right things is not enough!

- circumcised on the eighth day,
- of the people of Israel,
- of the tribe of Benjamin,
- a Hebrew of Hebrews
- in regard to the law, a Pharisee;
- as for zeal, persecuting the church;
- as for righteousness based on law, faultless.



1. Believing the right things is not enough!

- circumcised,
- of Israel,
- of Benjamin,
- top Hebrew
- a Pharisee;
- zealous
- faultless.
- Dedicated as infant
- American
- Bible belt
- Wheaton college
- M.Div from Fuller
- Door to door evangelist
- Drive a Prius / eat Kashi (over and above)



2. Belief without Christ is garbage

- ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage...
- Gains = loss
- Everything prior to Jesus= loss
- Everything I have lost didn't matter
- It was all "garbage."



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3. Faith, not belief is key

- I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.
- The key is faith; not believing the right things
- Moving from right thinking, to walking by faith



4. Faith transforms events

- Phil 1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.



4. Faith transforms events

- ¹² ...Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.



4. Faith transforms events

- When you live by faith, not belief, you find purpose in what you perceive as the negative events of life.
- Even going to prison!
- “As a result of me being in prison” ...
 - it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.
 - And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.



Making Faith Fun!

- We are bombarded by negative events
- We face problems that are real
- We face problems that we imagine
- We face attacks designed to make us feel guilty
 - Our gender, our race, our nationality, our status in life, our possessions, our religion,
- Christian faith;
 - Haters, push guilt, arrogant, narrow,
- “Not the way it’s supposed to be!”
- Faith should be fun, exciting, free, add confidence



So What?

- Go back to the beginning
- God doesn't want you to know all the right things
- God wants you to trust Him
- Your Christian pedigree doesn't impress God
- Set it all aside
- Come to God; Just you! As you are!
- I will do anything, go anywhere

