

Faith comes by hearing the word of Christ

When a biblical event is significant, the Holy Spirit will emphasize its importance by providing multiple accounts of it. What makes the conversion of Saul particularly notable is that Luke is inspired to record three different accounts in one single book (Acts 9:1-21; 22:1-21; 26:1-23). Luke devotes sixteen of twenty eight chapters of the book of Acts to the apostle Paul; the validation of the apostle Paul is vital, because he would author 13 epistles that would make up nearly one fourth of the New Testament.

1. Listen to what the apostle Paul says. What is the word of faith? Did you hear the progression of how a person is saved?

But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” (Rom 10:8-13, NASB)

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Teacher Notes

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Explain to the student that Saul was a Jew of Jews who knew the Law very well and sought to persecute Christians. Then he personally met Jesus Christ and realized that he made a mistake: faith in Jesus Christ is the way to salvation. Luke documents Saul's conversion to Christianity and name change to Paul, and records the two times Paul personally testifies to his fellow Jews even at the risk of death.

With the power of his convictions and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Paul evangelizes to the world.

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As you read the Scripture, ask the student: what is the condition for salvation? Did you hear the "if?" You may need to re-read parts of the passage to help the student learn what a conditional statement is.

"if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,"

"you will be saved"

Ask the student: what does it mean to "believe in your heart?"

Ask the student: do you believe in your heart that you were born? How do you know your birth was a historical event? Do you have a birth date? Do people celebrate your birthday? Did your birth truly happen?

Believing in your heart is saying that you believe something is historically true and without a doubt. Jesus Christ was a historical person who lived on earth. Coming alive after death proved that He was the Son of God and really happened, because the disciples became fearless in telling others after they talked to Him after His resurrection.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and God raised Him from the dead,

you will be saved!

Ask the student: did you hear the progression of how you are saved?

“for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness,”

Righteousness is something God determines. God knows your heart and if what you believe is true, real, and correct, then God determines you to be righteous.

If you believe the truth that Jesus Christ died for your sins and God resurrected Him, then you would be correct and considered righteous.

“with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation”

Confessing is something you do. It is acknowledging that Jesus is Lord and Son of God. It is also acknowledging that Jesus Christ died for your sins.

It is taking this fact into account in your view in life. While God is invisible, He really does exist and He loves me, because He sent His Son to die for my sins.

Ask the student: would you like to have salvation? Be prepared to lead a student through the sinner's prayer.