

Faith is not

- ***Only* intellectual assent/agreement**
 - Faith = believing certain truths about Jesus
 - **Rom 10.9** – If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- **Opposed to works**
 - **Eph 2.8-9:** For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - this is not from yourselves but the gift of God- not by works so no one can boast.
 - Saved by grace not works so if faith is a work then we would no longer be saved by grace

Faith is

- The confidence in what we hope for, and assurance of what we don't see (Hebrews 11.1)
- **Taking things that are:**
 - **future** – ‘what we hope for,’ and living as if they were present, i.e. Abraham
 - **invisible** – ‘things we don't see’ w/our physical eyes, and living as if they are ‘visible’ b/c we see them w/our spiritual eyes, i.e. prayer
- Faith is taking God at His word and acting accordingly

Two dynamics

■ Faith is always expressed outwardly

- Noah built an ark
- Abraham offered up Isaac
- Israel crossed the Red Sea

■ Faith does not guarantee 'success'

- Abraham always lived in a tent – hundreds of years before settlement
- There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.