

TRUE BELIEVERS NEVER QUIT BELIEVING

1 PETER 2:2-4 • TV150A

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1 Peter 2:2-4

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.”

I'm going to read today from the **Book of 1st Peter chapter 2: verses 2 through 4.**

Now, this is going to be a message that I think needs to be preached. I believe that people who are listening to this program today need to hear this message.

Here is the title: I am going to speak to you on this subject and I believe it with all my heart. I believe the Word of God teaches, **“TRUE BELIEVERS NEVER QUIT BELIEVING.”**

In **1st Peter chapter 2**; turn there if you will: Peter says, *“As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow thereby: If so be that you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming.”*

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Peter doesn't say that you came to the Lord one day and that was all: *"To whom coming, (you came to Christ, you are coming to Christ and you shall come to Christ), to whom coming as unto a living stone, rejected indeed of men but chosen of God and precious."*

Now, preachers who are really concerned for the glory of God, preachers who know the truth of the Gospel, preachers who are sent of God and care for the eternal well-being of their hearers know and preach that salvation is not an isolated experience.

It's not an isolated experience, that is, repentance that does not keep on repenting is not repentance at all. *"It is only earthly sorrow that bringeth death."*

Repentance that does not continue to repent is not true repentance at all, and faith that does not keep on believing is a false faith. Grace that does not grow is not the true grace of God.

We grow in grace, we grow in faith and we grow in love. That grace and that faith and that love that does not grow, is not saving faith; it is not the Lord's planting.

Then, a man who has savingly come to Christ and he has savingly closed with Christ and he has laid hold upon the Redeemer, will continue to come to Christ until he dies in faith. He begins in faith and he continues in faith. As the Scripture said of Old Testament believers, *"These all died in faith."*

Now, I believe that my friend. There are preachers who care for the glory of God, but all do not. There are preachers who know the truth of the Gospel, but all do not. There are preachers who are not concerned about payday, possessions, popularity, and large programs.

There are preachers who care for the eternal well-being of their hearers and are concerned that men really know God; these preachers know and preach that salvation, repentance and faith is not an isolated experience, (an old experience that stays old), but it is a repentance that keeps repenting, a faith that keeps believing, and a grace that continually grows.

Now, the Bible, the Word of God, is full of warnings to those who do not continue in the faith. We have an abundance of those today; you know it and I know it. This message is needed for this generation.

There are churches out there with hundreds and hundreds of members who can't get a "corporal's guard" together on Sunday evening or Wednesday night. There are thousands of church members out there listening to me, probably right now, who have no thought or intent at all to worship God this day.

The Bible continually warns people and yet these people at one time made a profession, united with the church, and were to some degree faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But, the Bible warns, it continually warns, that those who profess that they have entered into the kingdom of God and quit, never did know the Son of God.

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There is so much of this today; “I use to be a preacher; I use to be a deacon; I use to be a Sunday school teacher. I use to attend church; I just got out of the habit.” Are you saved? “Oh yes I’m saved.”

Are you a child of God? “Oh yes; I am a child of God. I have no interest in the Gospel, no love for Christ, no interest in the fellowship of believers. But, I’m all right and I will be in heaven when I die.”

Listen to the Word of God in **Hebrews Chapter 3:14**: “*For we are made partakers of Christ.*” That is what believers are “*partakers of Christ.*” Every spiritual blessing is in Christ; all of God’s mercies are in Christ; our relationship with the heavenly father is in Christ. “*We are made partakers of Christ, who is our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption.*”

We are made partakers of Christ “*if.*” If is a big word; this little two-lettered-word is a big word. If we what? “*If we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.*”

Then, Paul gives this illustration, he says: “*Not all that left Egypt entered Canaan.*” In other words, not all that left the slavery and bondage and darkness of Egypt and entered that course of travel across the wilderness; all of them didn’t enter Canaan.

Why didn’t they enter? He said, “*They could not enter in because of unbelief.*” Unbelief was discovered in their hearts and they did not enter in.

Paul said, in **2nd Timothy 4:10**: “*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*” Demas was an important man in the church; Demas was a companion of the apostle Paul and Demas is mentioned two or three times in the Bible.

Then, Paul comes along with this statement: “He left us; he departed from us; he hath forsaken us, why, because he loved the world more than he loved Christ.”

I am saying that the Bible warns us about unbelief. God says: “*Take heed brethren lest there be found in you an evil heart of unbelief.*” In **1 John 2:19**; John said, speaking about some folks who professed to be saved, professed to know God and joined the church and went through the motions for a little while.

John said: “*They went out from us; (they left us) but they were not of us.*” That’s what John said; that’s his conclusion; “*they were not of us, if they had been of us, they would no doubt, (and this is inspiration; this is the inspired Word of God; this is not a preacher just talking off the top of his head and making accusations against someone; this is John, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit).*”

He said: “*They would no doubt, if they had been of us, they would no doubt, have continued with us: But, they went out that it might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*”

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Listen to **Hebrews 10:38**: *“Now the just shall live by faith but if any man draw back, (depart from the faith), my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”*

But, Paul hastily adds: *“We are not of them who draw back unto perdition but of them that believe (or keep on believing) to the saving of the soul.”*

My friends; the Scriptures reveal salvation, not as an isolated experience, not as an empty profession of faith, not just believing some doctrines, but the Bible reveals salvation as a living, personal union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

For example: The Lord says; *“I am the vine; you are the branches.”* He said: *“I am the head; you are the body.”* This is a living union, a living union with Christ, an inseparable union; *“I’m the head and you are the body.”*

He said: *“I am the Father; you are Sons of God.”* That’s a relationship that never ceases. The vine and the branches never cease to be one. If the branches are severed from the vine, they no longer have any life; they are only fit for burning.

If the body is severed from the head it has no life, no function. Certainly, no Son of God can be separated from his God and Father because it is a living relationship.

Then, the Scriptures reveal that salvation is a continual coming to Christ, a continual looking to Christ, a continual growing in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My friends; true faith lives; true faith walks with God; true faith continues to walk with God. True faith continues to believe on Christ and true faith *“growth exceedingly.”*

Now, it’s not an easy thing and I want you to listen to this very carefully: I have laid down two or three things already. I am saying that a man who knows the Gospel and who loves the souls of men and who cares about the glory of God; he knows that salvation is not just an isolated experience, it is a living experience, it’s a living union with Christ, it’s a vital union with Christ.

The Bible continually warns us and warns us about departing from the faith. I want you to listen to this, it’s not an easy thing to discern between saving faith and false faith. All religionists have a faith. There are several kinds of faith mentioned in the Bible.

One day there were some people who came to our Lord because of the miracles of which He did, because of the wonders that He performed, the blind saw and the deaf heard, and the lame walked; they believed on Him because of the miracles which they saw.

But, the Scripture quickly adds: *“Christ did not commit himself to them because he knew what was in their hearts.”* Now, that’s “miracle-faith.”

Then, there is “material-faith.” Our Lord fed 5,000 people one time with two loaves and five fishes. Those people followed Him; they just kept on following Him. They wouldn’t have to

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work anymore if they could just follow this fellow that could make mountains of food out of just a small parcel of food.

So, they followed Him. He turned and said to them: *“I know why you are following me because you ate of the loaves and were filled; that’s why you are following me.”* So, that’s what I call “material- faith.”

So, there are several kinds of faith. It’s not easy to discern between saving faith, living faith, Holy Spirit given faith, and that phony, false faith of modern religionists.

It’s not easy; it’s not easy at all. If it were easy we wouldn’t have Scriptures like these: In **2nd Corinthians 13:5** it says: *“Examine yourselves whether you be in the faith.”* Now, if it was easy to discern between a saving faith and a false faith, why would we be warned to examine ourselves?

Then, Peter said: *“Brethren; give diligence, to make your calling and election sure.”* Then, John said: *“Try the spirits; whether they be of God;”* it’s not so easy to discern.

Then, in **Matthew 7**, our Lord said: *“Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, is going to enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

So, it’s not easy to discern between saving faith and false faith and living faith and a phony faith, that personal faith that the Spirit of God works in the heart by grace and that false faith that is not of God.

Now, let me help you with that a little bit; there are a lot of things that false faith can do. There are a lot of things that are not evidences at all of saving faith. You cannot depend on these things as being a mark of saving faith or an evidence of saving faith, for example:

False faith can excite the emotions. We know that there is a lot of emotionalism in religion and we know a lot of people seem to want to prove that they are saved by how much noise that they can make, how loud they can shout or how often they can cry or some of these outward, emotional, demonstrations. That is no proof of faith; that is no proof of faith at all.

When our Lord rode the donkey into Jerusalem, the very people, who a few days later cried, *“crucify him, crucify him,* were casting palm branches before Him and laying their clothes on the ground and in front of Him were crying, *“hail, hail; blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Make him king; hail king of Israel”* and so forth. These same people were just as emotional crying *“crucify him, crucify him.”*

Then, when our Lord gave the example of the sower going forth to sow, He said: *“The seed is the Word of God, the sower is the Son of man; some of it fell on fallow ground; some of it fell among stony places, on stony ground and it sprang up quickly.”*

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He said: *“These are they that hear the word and with joy receive it. But, when persecution and trial (testing time comes, when the bright sun of trials shines upon them), they wither away because they have no root: But, they receive the word with joy.”*

We see that all the time in what they call “revival meetings or evangelistic campaigns.” The preacher preaches and they put on a special effort and special music and bring everybody in and pack the pews and all of these things.

The fellow tells some sad stories and preaches a sermon and reads a poem and gives three points and tells a joke and somebody sings and here they come down the aisle and they just with joy receive the Word and they are happy and emotional. Everybody cries and shakes hands.

Six months later, you can’t find half of those people. You can’t find 10 % of them that walked down that aisle. What happened, “the stony ground hearer?”

False faith can excite the emotions, but salvation is not emotionalism; it is faith in Christ. It is counting the cost. It is digging deep and laying a foundation; it is resting in the Son of God. It is deliberately, willfully, lovingly, livingly, eternally and trusting Him whatever the cost.

False faith can do something else: It can reform the outward man!

This is the way that some people prove they are saved; they quit drinking; they quit cursing; they quit smoking; they quit dancing; and they quit gambling. Therefore, now, “I am a Christian; I have quit these things.”

Let me tell you something, the Pharisees lived outwardly, moral lives; you, (not a one of you listening to me,) could touch their moral lives. One of them stood in the temple one day and he said this to God almighty: *“I’m not like other men.”* He meant what he said and he was telling the truth; he wasn’t like other men. He said: *“I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of everything I possess, (not just my pay, but everything I possess, even my possessions, one tenth).”*

He said: *“I’m not an adulterer; I’m not an extortionist; I’m not unjust.”* He said: *“I give alms to the poor. I read the scriptures on the street corners and I pray in public. I thank you God that I’m not even like that publican.”*

Here was a man, our Lord said, who had a wicked heart. He was clean on the outside, just as clean and white as a gravestone, but on the inside he was *“full of dead men’s bones.”*

And, so much religion today is nothing in the world but an outward reformation, men quitting a few habits and stopping short of the vital issues, (faith in Christ, love for Christ, and repentance toward God).

False faith can reform the outward man; it’s nothing to do that; just pass out some pledge cards and promise people that they will go to heaven and they will give up most everything but what they love.

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False faith can attain a high office in the church. False faith can attain high office. Judas held the only office among the apostles. There were 12 apostles and they had one officer and that was Judas the treasurer. Demas was a companion of the apostles. Diotrephes loved to have the preeminence.

False faith can be baptized with Simon. False faith can give gifts with Ananias and Sapphira. False faith can speak well of Jesus Christ with Nicodemus. False faith can persevere and hang on to its false hope, even to the judgment, and then stand face to face with God almighty and plea their works.

Well Lord; you can't send us to eternal condemnation; "*we preached in your name and we did many wonderful works, and we cast out devils in your name.*" Think of what we did.

But, there's no word of what Christ did. There's no word of the cross, the blood of Christ, of salvation by grace. There's no word of God's gift, His unspeakable gift, the mercy of God in Jesus Christ.

So, false faith; it's not so easy to discover. Many people are deceived by this thing. Salvation and religion is nothing in the world but an outward performance and an outward claim, and an outward profession and an outward duty of emotionalism, good works, high office in the church, and all of these other ceremonies and rituals of religion.

There are four things that false faith cannot produce. There is no way that these four things can be produced by anyone but a believer and I'm going to give them to you.

Now, these are marks of salvation; these are marks of redemption; here are four things that false faith cannot touch, it cannot produce:

First of all: False faith will never produce a heart that is truly broken before God over my sin!

You think about this. You weigh every one of those words; false faith can never produce a broken heart. This thing of salvation is a heart business. It's not walking an aisle. It's not yapping with your mouth. It is not claiming things that you don't possess.

It is not professing to be what you are not; it's a heart work. Conviction is of the heart. Repentance is of the heart: "*With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.*" It's a heart work!

The people at Pentecost were pricked in their hearts. They believed with their hearts. The Scripture said: "*With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.*" God said; "*my son, give me your heart.*"

The prophet said: "*Keep your heart; out of it are the issues of life.*" Our Lord said: "*Those things that defile a man are not what he puts in his mouth; it's what comes out of his heart.*"

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False faith cannot produce a heart that is broken, broken, and contrite. The Bible says over and over again in the **Book of Psalms**: “*God saveth such as be of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The sacrifices of God are a broken heart and a contrite spirit.*”

David said: “*My sin.*” This heart is a heart broken before God, not before men. Every one of us will cry when we get caught. Every one of us will repent when we get caught. Every one of us will make restitution when we get caught.

There’s nothing to that, nothing to being exposed and repenting, but when we repent before God, when we weep before God, over what, my sin, not sin in general terms, not the world’s sin, not even Adam’s sin, but my sin.

David said: “*And my sin is ever before me, against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight that thou mightiest be justified when you speak and clear when you judge (condemn).*”

“*O God; purge me with hyssop. Wash me and I shall be whiter than the snow. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.*” Do you see what I am saying?

Now, you can go for this emotionalism if you want to, and aisle walking, and all of these empty professions. But I am saying to you, saving faith produces a believing heart; it’s a heart business; that’s where it is, it is a heart business that is broken before God over my sin.

Secondly: False faith can never receive; it can never believe; it can never rest in Christ alone as the only way of salvation!

That’s right; it can never do it! False faith just has to add something to Christ. It has to, it can’t resist it. It has to add its confession or its baptism, or its good works or its church membership. False faith has to add its beads, or rosaries or uniforms, or Mary.

It’s got to add something. It has to add the sacraments, the sprinkling, the conformation, the creed, the confession, the doctrines, the god-fathers and the god-mothers. False faith has to have something else besides Jesus Christ. Now that’s the truth and you know it’s the truth!

1 Corinthians 1:30 says: “*Of God are you in Christ who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*” Everything I need God-ward is in Christ. Christ is all “*I am complete in him.*”

**“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and his righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
I wholly lean on Jesus’ name.”**

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The fact that I am a preacher makes no contribution to my salvation. The fact that I am a church member makes no contribution to my salvation. The fact that I've repented and believed makes no contribution to the justification of my soul; *"it's God that justifieth and it is Christ that died."*

That's our hope, in the Lord Jesus Christ! False faith can't do it; it just can't rest in Christ. It just cannot cease from its works and enter into his rest.

I'm not saying that a believer does not work; he has works of faith and labors of love but not in order to be saved but because he is saved, because he knows Christ. *"The love of Christ constraineth us."*

My acceptance before God and justification before the law and legal standing before God's justice is in and by and through and by the cause of Jesus Christ and that's all my hope.

**"I once was lost but now I'm found
And by God's grace I'm heaven bound.
My only hope, my only plea (and I mean only, only hope, only plea)
Is in when Christ died, He died for me."**

Now, false faith can't do it; it can't fall with Thomas when he said, *"my Lord and my God."*

Thirdly: False faith; it can produce a lot of things: It can excite the emotions, reform the outward man, attain high office and do all of these other things, even hang on until the judgment, but false faith will never bow to the Lordship and sovereignty of Jesus Christ!

False faith may accept Jesus as Saviour but it will never bow to him as Lord. That's right; false faith is still controlled by human will, by the natural ego; that's right! They say: "Christ is not the Lord."

That's the reason that people don't understand that salvation is a commitment to Christ. Christ is King; He is our family; He is our life; He is our hope; He is everything. What I have doesn't belong to me it belongs to Christ. *"I am bought with a price. I am not my own. I am a servant (bond-slave) of Jesus Christ."*

False faith reaches out and hangs on to Christ as a Saviour and his sin is the lord. Or the man's wife is his lord or her husband is her lord or his bigotry is his lord or his pride is his lord or his envy is his lord. That's his lord!

That is what rules his life; his business is his lord. Money is his lord. Pleasure is his lord. Everything under the sun is his lord and Christ is his Saviour. Ain't no such thing! If Christ is not your Lord he's not your Saviour.

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False faith will never bow, it will never bow, it will never bend, and it will never submit. *“If thou wilt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

God’s people are a conquered people; that’s exactly right! He puts a yoke on them; His yoke, which is easy, His burden which is light. But, there is a yoke on them anyway. False faith can’t do it. False faith can’t bow to Christ alone.

Now, watch this and I will close with this: False faith will never continue in fellowship with believers; it will never continue in fellowship with the church and in the Gospel. False faith always finds a reason to quit, a justifying reason to quit, a self-justifying alibi to leave the fellowship.

I’ve seen it happen too often in 35 years of preaching. They are always justified; they always get mad at the preacher or the choir leader or the Sunday school teacher or the church or somebody else.

Somebody somewhere hurts their feelings, offends them. They are going to find a blessed reason to quit, false faith but not saving faith. Saving faith continues!

“He hath delivered us; he doth deliver us; he will deliver us. We have been saved; we are being saved and salvation is nearer than when we believed.”

A true believer never quits; he never quits!