

**Biblical Faith
vs
Assumption**

Curtis Hutchinson

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One's Faith must be in the Cross of Christ for the Holy Spirit to work, but many would say our Faith can be in anything in God's Word and not only the Cross of Christ.

For those who are walking in the Light in which our Lord walks, this reveals and identifies a critical theological dividing line, and it must be addressed with God's Redemptive, Reconciling and Righteous Words of Scripture and not our opinion.

The Core Issue and this place of misunderstanding comes of course from not hearing God through the avenue in which He speaks, which is the Blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 12:24-25

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

The question is not whether every Word of God is true, for we know that it is, but that of "where" The Holy Spirit has been authorized by God to work.

Scripture is clear concerning where The Holy Spirit works which is exclusively within the framework of Christ and Him crucified. Any claim that Faith may be placed in anything else, even biblical things, severs Faith from God's ordained means of operation.

One's Faith can be "For" God to do whatever might be needed, but Faith must always be "IN" Christ Jesus, meaning His Sacrificial work on the Cross, for Faith will not work anywhere else. This is why our God has told us not to be FOUND boasting in anything other.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

God's Word Is Unified, but God's Way Is Singular.

2 Timothy 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Every Word of God finds its meaning, power, and application in the Cross of Christ.

Jesus Himself declared:

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

And Paul clarified how they testify of Him:

1 Corinthians 2:2-5

2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

The content of Scripture is broad; the power of Scripture is narrow, being the Cross of Christ.

All of God's Words are IN Righteousness and His Righteousness is revealed in the Gospel.

Proverbs 8:8

All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The Holy Spirit Works Only Within God's Redemption Plan

Psalm 33:4

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Holy Spirit is not free to act wherever man chooses to place Faith. He operates only within God's Redemptive order.

Scripture states plainly that "Christ hath Redeemed us from the curse of the law... that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through Faith." (Galatians 3:13–14)

Notice carefully how the Cross of Christ accomplishes Redemption. The Spirit is given through that Redemption. Faith that bypasses the Cross cannot access the Holy Spirit's work. Faith in anything else produces flesh, not Spirit.

Paul addressed this exact error:

Galatians 3:3

Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The Galatians were still Believing Scripture, law, commands, and ordinances but their Faith would no longer work for them because their heart's object of trust had shifted from the Cross to something else in God's Word.

The result was frustration of grace:

Galatians 2:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Grace is God at work, and God works only through the Cross. To reject this reality is to be FOUND before God

searching for or working for something which He has already provided.

The Holy Spirit Delivers Only One Way

Paul gives the clearest operational statement of the Spirit's ministry:

2 Corinthians 4:10

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

And again:

2 Corinthians 4:11-12

11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

And this is the Spirit of Faith mentioned even in this portion of Scripture.

2 Corinthians 4:13

We having **the same spirit of faith**, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

The Holy Spirit is constantly delivering the Believer to the death of Christ. He is not delivering us to principles or methods, but to the Cross. If Faith is not placed there, the Spirit has no lawful avenue to work.

Why "Faith in Anything in the Word" Sounds Right, but is Wrong

Remember: One's Faith can be "FOR" God to do whatever might be needed, but Faith must always be "IN" Christ Jesus, meaning His Sacrificial work on the Cross, for Faith will not work anywhere else. This is why our God has told us not to be FOUND boasting in anything other.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

This teaching sounds spiritual because it quotes Scripture, but it ignores how Scripture works. Faith in commands produces self-effort. Faith in principles produces performance. Faith in experience produces deception. Only Faith in Christ crucified produces the Spirit's power.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Power is not in Scripture detached from Calvary. Power is in Scripture interpreted and Believed by the Faith that is IN Christ and IN Christ alone, meaning His Sacrifice.

Note in these following Scriptures where everything we need and live by are exclusively FOUND IN Christ, which ALWAYS means Faith in His Cross.

Faith - Grace - Love - Truth only IN Christ

GRACE IN CHRIST

2 Timothy 2:1

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

GRACE, FAITH, LOVE IN CHRIST

1 Timothy 1:14

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

FAITH IN CHRIST

2 Timothy 3:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

TRUTH IN CHRIST

Ephesians 4:21

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

The Final Verdict of Scripture is FOUND in Colossians 2:6.

Colossians 2:6

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Do you remember “how” we receive Him?

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

The Holy Spirit does not honor divided Faith. He honors Faith anchored exclusively in the Cross of Christ. Anything else, however biblical it sounds, is an attempt to redirect our Faith away from the only place where God works.

We may read all of God’s Word, but our Faith must rest in the Cross alone. Only there does the Holy Spirit operate, only there does grace flow, and only there is Christ truly

known. Many would say that us saying “Faith in promises alone produces presumption and is us limiting God and a lack of Faith.” That objection is common, and it sounds spiritual, but when examined by Scripture it reverses the biblical definition of Faith and **subtly redefines how God works**. This is not a matter of limiting God; it is a matter of submitting to the way God has chosen to work, which is always through Faith in the Cross of Christ.

1. Faith Does Not Define God’s Freedom, but rather our God Defines Faith

This statement does not mean that our God is restricted or powerless, or that He is bound by human theology, nor that He cannot act outside human understanding. Our God is absolutely sovereign, eternally free, and answers to no one.

Psalm 115:3

But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

The issue is not God’s ability, but man’s **assumption** about how Faith functions.

True faith is not man deciding where God must act, but rather being in agreement with where God has already acted.

Scripture never defines Faith as Believing God can do anything in any way we choose. Faith is defined as trusting what God has done in Christ.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But what word?

1 Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Biblical Faith always has a specific object, and that object is Christ and Him crucified. Faith detached from that object is not Faith; it is assumption.

2. Promises Are Not Power, but The Cross is

Promises are true, but they are not operative by themselves. Every promise of God is guaranteed by the Cross of our Savior, accessed through Faith in the Cross and applied by the Holy Spirit because of one's Faith in the Cross of Christ.

Paul makes this precise:

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

“In Him” does not mean mentally acknowledging Jesus. It means union with Christ in His death.

Romans 6:3-5

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Without Faith in the Cross of Christ, promises remain words and Faith becomes expectation without provision. This has

held the Church in much delusion and confusion for too long. The flesh steps in to “help God” and that is the presumption of man.

3. Presumption Is Not Bold Faith - It Is Faith Without the Cross

Presumption is expecting God to act while bypassing the means He ordained.

This is exactly what Satan tempted Jesus to do:

Matthew 4:6

And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Notice carefully how Satan quoted a promise and that the promise was Scripture, although twisted out of context. Jesus refused to act on it outside the will and way of God.

Jesus did not say, “I have faith, therefore I will jump.” What He did say is recorded below.

Matthew 4:7

Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Why? Because acting on a promise without submission to God's redemptive order is temptation, not Faith.

4. The Cross Is God's Safeguard Against Fleshly Faith

God has intentionally limited the way His power flows, not because He is weak, but because He will not empower the flesh.

1 Corinthians 1:29

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

If promises alone released power, SELF could and would glory, methods would multiply, and the Cross would be optional not mandated.

But God has ordained otherwise:

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Faith only lives from where Christ gave Himself.

5. Faith in Promises Without the Cross Shifts Trust to Self

When Faith is placed in promises alone, something subtle happens. The Believer begins to measure Faith by results while delay is interpreted as failure. Techniques will replace dependence and only disappointment can follow. If we sow to the flesh, we will reap of the flesh even if we do not know what is happening.

This is why Proverbs warns:

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Why? Because hope was placed in an outcome, not in the Cross where God works regardless of outcome. Faith in the Cross says, "Even if I do not see it now, God is at work."

Faith in promises alone says, “If it doesn’t happen, something is wrong.” That is not Faith; that is attempting to put pressure on God.

6. Limiting God vs. Honoring God

To say the Cross is the only avenue of the Spirit’s work is not limiting God. It is honoring His wisdom. God Himself has said, “I will not give My glory unto another.”

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

And the glory of God is revealed only in the Cross of Christ.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

God is not offended by dependence on the Cross. He is offended by attempts to bypass it, even while we are using His Word.

7. The Real Issue: What Is Faith Trusting?

The question is not, “Do you believe the promise?”
The question is, “Do you trust the work of the Cross of Christ that made the promise possible and allows the Spirit to apply it?”

Because God’s Word tells us:

John 16:14

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

And Christ is glorified only as the Crucified One.

Faith in promises alone is not greater Faith, it is displaced Faith. It removes trust from the Cross and places it in expectation, outcomes, or personal resolve. True faith rests where God has already finished the work which was at Calvary in Christ. There, and only there, will the Holy Spirit work without obstruction.

Many today run to and fro decreeing and declaring things that God is going to do in their planned meeting, but I fear it is only a marketing scheme of assumption packaged as spirituality, often functioning as religious marketing rather than spiritual ministry.

8. Decreeing and Declaring Is Not New, But Its Abuse Is Deadly

The language of “decreeing” and “declaring” is lifted selectively from Scripture, and is removed from its Redemptive, Reconciling and Righteous context. In the Bible, God decrees, God declares and God determines the end from the beginning.

Man’s role is never to announce what God is about to do, but to believe what God has already done in Christ.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Those revelations were God-initiated, not event-promoted.

9. Announcing Outcomes Before the Cross Is Presumption

When meetings are promoted with statements such as, “God is going to move mightily”, “Breakthrough is guaranteed” and “Miracles will happen tonight”, the unspoken assumption is that God is obligated to validate our gathering. That is not Faith, it is an attempt to pressure God to do what we say.

Scripture says:

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

If the answer must be advertised in advance, it usually means confidence is not in God’s sovereign work, but in the event itself.

10. The Cross Is Never Marketed - It Is Proclaimed

Paul never announced what God was going to do in a meeting. He declared what God had already done.

1 Corinthians 1:17

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

The moment outcomes are promised, the Cross is eclipsed, expectations are manipulated, and disappointment must be explained away. Nothing but a boatload of confusion.

This is why so many meetings require, emotional buildup, music-driven atmosphere, repetition of slogans and claims that “something happened” even when nothing changed.

11. Assumption Always Requires Hype

Faith rooted in the Cross does not need advertising, because it does not depend on visible results. Assumption, however, must create anticipation, attempting to guarantee success. These attempt to control perception to be able to protect their platform.

This explains why failures are never acknowledged. “God moved” is claimed regardless of the fruit. Attendance replaces repentance as proof of success. Yet, Scripture defines God’s work differently.

Zechariah 4:6

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

And the Spirit works only in the shadow of the Cross, not the spotlight of promotion.

12. Declaring What God Will Do Replaces Dependence with Control

Biblical Faith waits.

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Marketing Faith announces while waiting acknowledges that God is sovereign, free and cannot be managed.

Announcing outcomes suggests that God has been scheduled based on man’s declaration. That He has been scripted and that He must now perform to preserve the minister’s credibility.

That is not confidence, but rather the fear of silence.

13. The Holy Spirit Is Grieved by Assumptive Faith

The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, not meetings, not leaders, not moments.

John 16:14

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine and shall shew it unto you.

Christ is glorified only as the Crucified One, not as a tool to validate an event. When outcomes are declared beforehand, the Cross is no longer sufficient and the Spirit is reduced to a response mechanism, and Grace is replaced by performance.

14. Biblical Ministry Makes No Guarantees While Proclaiming The Gospel of Christ.

True gospel ministry says:

1 Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

It does not say that God will heal everyone, or that God will move in a specific way, or that God will do what we announced.

The Cross guarantees God's faithfulness, not our expectations.

What we are rightly, safely and Scripturally identifying is this:

When outcomes must be declared in advance, Faith has already shifted from the Cross to assumption. Marketing

requires promises. The Cross requires neither hype nor explanation. It is God's avenue of speaking all that He speaks and all that He works, for it is the revelation of who He is and what He finished before the foundation of the world.