

SEEING AND BELIEVING

JOHN 6:40 • TV117B

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John 6:40

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

I want you to open your Bible to the book of **John Chapter 6:40**. I’m going to speak to you on this subject: **“SEEING AND BELIEVING.”**

Now, this just could be; I’m hoping that it will be, the most important message you will ever hear.

I do covet your attention. I covet God’s Spirit to give me the power to preach the truth as it is in Christ Jesus and the Gospel as it ought to be preached. I covet God’s Spirit will give you a receptive heart and an interest, an ear that can hear Him speak who speaks through His Word and as the apostle said, *“who speaks from heaven and eyes to behold the beauty and glory of the Son of God.”*

Will you listen, **John 6:40**? *“And this is the will of him that sent me that everyone that seeth the Son and believeth on him may have everlasting life and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Now, we hear statements like this all the time; “Have faith, now just have faith” or like this, “Keep the faith, be sure and keep the faith or just believe.”

My friend, the Scriptures (now you listen to this statement), the Scriptures, the Word of God does not teach that men are saved simply by having faith. Everybody has faith in something. The man who flies an airplane has faith in the airplane.

A man who crosses a bridge has faith in the bridge. The man who takes a prescription to the drugstore has faith both in the doctor who wrote it and the druggist who puts it together.

So, the Bible doesn't teach that men are saved by simply having faith. It is not just having faith that saves; it's not just to believe that saves, but it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, the Scripture is very clear on that; faith must have an object and that one object of saving faith is Jesus Christ, not faith in the church, faith in the priest, or faith in the pastor, but faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Philippian jailer came trembling before Paul and Silas and said: “*what must I do to be saved?*” Well, Paul didn't say, “Keep the faith or just have faith.” He said: “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.*”

Listen to this verse: “*He that seeth the Son and believeth on him.*” Listen to this verse: “*He that believeth on the Son of God hath life, he that believeth not the Son of God, (whatever he believes) hath not life.*”

Listen to this verse in **1 John 5:11**: “*This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the Son of God hath not life, (whatever he has).*”

He may have faith in theology or faith in the law or faith in the denomination but it is faith in Christ that saves. Paul said, “*I know whom I have believed;* (he didn't say what I believe or I know when I believed); he said “*I know whom I have believed.*”

What does the Scripture say about Abraham who is the father of every believer? “*Abraham believed God.*” Now, faith had an object, it's not just Abraham believed, “*he believed God.*”

Like the body without the soul is dead. Here's a body standing before you preaching to you. This thing that makes me speak is the soul in this body. The thing that enables me to hear is my soul. The thing that enables me to see is my soul.

Man is a soul and he has a body. If the soul leaves this body the body will be just like it is for a while. There won't be any changes except I won't see or hear or feel or speak or talk or anything because the life's gone, the soul is gone.

As the body without the soul is dead; faith without Jesus Christ is dead. Christ is the life of faith, *“he that seeth the Son and believeth on him.”* That’s what we are talking about (a study of faith).

Now, no man is going to repent; (listen to this) no man is going to repent toward God in genuine Godly sorrow and genuine repentance until he sees his sin! I mean by that, until he understands something of his great guilt before God.

You know, we use the word *“see.”* Our Lord said: *“No man, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* Now, you don’t see the kingdom of God as buildings and so forth.

The word there is understand, discern the kingdom of God. *“Except a man be born again”* he doesn’t understand the kingdom of God, he doesn’t discern the kingdom of God.

And no man is going to repent until he sees his sins; that is until he understands the existence of them and the guilt of them and the corruption of them and the power of them and the depravity of them and the person against whom he sinned. He understands something of the nature of sin and he’s not going to repent until he does.

Even so, no man is going to believe on Jesus Christ and receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour until he sees or understands or discerns to some extent who Jesus Christ is, who sent Him, what He came to do, and why He did it, *“that God may be just and justify the ungodly,”* and where he is now.

You see, in order to believe on Christ you’ve got to understand to some extent; you’ve got to see to some extent, you’ve got to discern to some extent, who He is, that He’s the ordained Saviour, that He is the appointed Saviour, that He is the Saviour that God sent to accomplish this purpose, the redemption of our soul.

That’s what Paul is saying in **Romans 10:13**: He said, *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.”* Now, why will a man call on a person to save him unless he needed saving?

For example, if a fellow falls in a river and he is drowning and he cries out for help, he realizes his condition. He realizes his helplessness. He realizes the certainty of death.

He sees a man on the shore and he says: *“George; save me.”* He knows George can do it. He sees the man and he knows the man has a rope or a buoy in his hand; he can save him and he calls for help.

This is the why men will not call on Christ to save them unless they have a sense of their sin. *“Lord save me or I perish.”* Save me from what; the power of sin, the guilt of sin, from the penalty of sin, from the practice of sin, from the presence of sin, something I cannot do for myself!

A man who is a good swimmer, who is not in trouble; he may be swimming around in the river and he will never cry for help because he doesn't need help. *"The well do not need a physician,"* and righteous people do not need a Saviour. *"But whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved."*

Now, listen to Paul, *"But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

Paul is saying the same thing that our Lord is saying; our Lord said: *"Verily I say unto you; he that seeth the Son"* (understandeth who He is, what he came to do, why He came to do it and where He is now). *"He that seeth the Son, (discerneth, understandeth the mission, the task, the power, and the merit of the Son of God) and believes on him has everlasting life, he that seeth the Son."*

We are not talking about a vision. I'm always afraid of folks that have visions. I don't want to listen to one, no I don't. There was a fellow in hell and he cried: *"Father Abraham, send Lazarus back to the earth to preach to my brothers. Send him back from the grave. Let him rise from the grave and appear in a vision to my brethren and warn them not to come to this awful place."*

Abraham said: *"They have the word of God. They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear the word of God."* He said, *"They won't believe the word of God but they will believe if a fellow appears to them from the dead."*

Now you listen to me, and Abraham said: *"if they hear not the word of God, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead."*

We are not talking about a vision of Christ. Christ is revealed in the Scriptures. Christ is pictured in the Scriptures. Christ is presented and promised in the Scriptures and *"he that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life."*

So, when I say, *"He that seeth the Son;"* I'm not talking about a physical manifestation; plenty of people saw Him in the days of His flesh who didn't believe on Him, plenty of people saw Him.

I'm not talking about a vision and I'm not talking about a dream; I'm talking about Christ revealed to the mind and to the heart and to the soul through the Word of God. How does faith come? *"It comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* That's how faith comes.

How do we enter into the mysteries of God's mercy, by reading the Scriptures? And the reason most of us are so ignorant of the Gospel and ignorant of the mysteries of God's mercy and grace is that we are ignorant of the Word of God.

Some folks came to our Lord one day and asked Him a question about the resurrection. They said: “*Now here’s a woman who has had five or six different husbands and each one died and finally she dies; whose going to be her husband in the resurrection?*”

Christ told them their whole problem, He said: “*You do err not knowing the power of God or the scriptures.*” There are the two areas people err the most; they don’t understand the power of God and they don’t understand the Scriptures.

They don’t read the Scriptures and they don’t have any faith in the power of God. For example, I heard a program the other night on television. They were debating whether or not a fish could swallow Jonah and Jonah could stay alive in the fishes’ belly for three days and three nights.

I don’t even believe the Bible says that Jonah stayed alive. Jonah was dead in the belly of that fish. You say, “If he’s dead, how did the fish cough him out alive?”

How did the grave give up Lazarus alive? Lazarus was in the grave four days and the Scripture says, our Lord said: “*Lazarus come forth.*” He walked out of that grave a living man.

God prepared a fish and that fish swallowed Jonah and Jonah was as dead as a hammer in that fishes’ belly. The Bible doesn’t say that he was alive all that time. He was a type of Christ.

Our Lord was dead in the grave. He lay buried in the grave. He was dead, a dead body and at the end of the third day, the morning of the third day, he came forth out of that tomb.

“*But we err not knowing the scriptures and not knowing the power of God.*” God’s power is able to bring a man forth from a fishes belly as well as from a grave. Someday everybody is going to hear the voice of God and every grave is going to open and every dead body is going to live, some that have been dead for 6,000 years, but that’s the power of God.

We need to understand the power of God and we need to understand the Scriptures. The only way that we are going to understand is to get into the Bible and quit following pamphlets and preachers and start following God’s Word.

I want you to listen to five things about the object of faith, this thing of faith, the study of faith, seeing and believing.

Now, the Bible promises this on the Word of Christ our Lord: “*He that seeth the Son*” and that’s to discern, to understand, to enter into by understanding, by the grace of God, something into the person of Christ, who He is, what He came to do, where He is now, “*he that seeth the Son and believes hath everlasting life.*” And Christ said, “*I’m going to raise him up at the last day.*”

Now, here are some facts about faith, the object of faith:

First of all: In the Gospel Christ is presented personally!

As I said a moment ago; faith has got to have an object. This is where most people miss the Gospel. This is where most people miss salvation. It's not a plan that saves; it's a person who saves.

My friend; it's not a doctrine that saves; it's a person who redeemed us. It's not a code of conduct that redeems a person before God and makes him holy in God's presence; it's a person: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."*

He gave His Son to death. He gave His Son to bear our sins. He gave His Son as a sin-offering. He gave His Son as a sacrifice. He gave His Son to the cross. *"In the fullness of time God sent his Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were born under the law."*

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." It's a person who saves. You know, *"In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and we are complete in him,"* not a plan, a person, not a doctrine, a person, not a code of conduct, a person, first the person.

And then the privilege; you have the privilege because you have the person. For example: If a woman marries a man and she takes his name, then she has everything that he has, being one with him. Whatever belongs to him belongs to her.

He's then responsible for her debts. He's then responsible for her protection. He's then responsible for her provision; he's responsible. She belongs to him.

So, if we want the inheritance of Christ Jesus, if we want the privileges and blessings that God has given to Christ Jesus and invested in Christ Jesus by God almighty; we've got to know Christ. If you have him you have everything. *"We are complete in him."*

"Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption," first the person and then the privilege, first the person and then the redemption, first the bridegroom and then the inheritance. That's where it all is; it's in a person. The object of faith is a person, Christ Jesus.

Secondly: Then the Gospel presents Christ undivided!

Now listen to me! Paul said to that Philippian Jailer: *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."* The Word Lord designates His sovereignty, His kingship: *"He's King of Kings and Lord of Lords."*

The word Jesus is His name of humiliation and His name of suffering. It's the same word used in the Old Testament Joshua, deliverer, Saviour. Christ became a man and became our Saviour. That's His name of humiliation.

Christ, Israel looked for the Christ, the consolation of Israel, the prophet. Moses said: *"God will rise up among the brethren a prophet like unto me;"* listen to Him, prophet, priest, and king, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Somebody said: “Well, can’t I have Jesus to be my Saviour and let Caesar be my Lord?” That’s exactly what they wanted back in those days. It can’t be. If Jesus Christ is not your Lord then my friend, he’s not your Saviour.

It doesn’t matter who says He is. I know some outstanding evangelist’s today are on record as saying that you can accept Jesus as your Saviour and later on if it’s convenient and if you are so persuaded, you can make Jesus your Lord.

It’s not so! You can’t divide Christ. He’s undivided in the Scripture. He’s the Lord Jesus Christ. He said: “*You call me Lord with your lips but your hearts are far from me.*”

Some people want His benefits and not His teaching. Some people want His teaching and not His atonement. Some people want His atonement and not His Lordship. But, the Gospel does not divide Christ and neither does any sensible minister of the Gospel. If He’s your Lord then He’s your Saviour. He will be Lord of all or he won’t be Lord at all.

I said I would give you five things about this object of faith, the Scripture, the Word of God and the Gospel presents Christ personally. The Gospel presents Christ undivided, prophet, priest and king, Lord and Saviour.

Thirdly: And the Gospel presents Christ exclusively!

He said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*” Now, that’s as clear as words can state anything. Men do not come to the Father through the law and they do not come through the church. They come through Christ or they don’t come at all.

“*Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid Christ the Lord. There’s none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.*”

You put one foot on Christ and one foot on your church or one foot on Christ and one foot on the law and one foot on Christ and one foot on your baptism is to have one foot on a rock and one foot in the quicksand; you are finished. It’s got to be Christ or nothing. It’s all of grace or it’s all of works; it’s not a mixture.

“*He is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,*” all I need. In His life Christ is my righteousness. In His death he is my sin-offering. In His resurrection he’s my victory and triumph. In His intercession he’s my Mediator. He’s everything, all I need.

And serving Christ and obeying Christ is a response to the love that Christ has for us. It’s not in order to earn it or to gain it as a reward or to merit it through some service. We have Christ and we serve Him because we have Him, because we love Him.

Fourthly: The Gospel presents Christ freely!

The Scripture says in **Romans 6:23**: *“The wages of sin is death.”* Now, I have earned my wages. If I can get death and destruction, I’ve deserved it, I’ve earned it. I’ve merited it through my sins, *“but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* It’s a gift; it’s called the *“unspeakable gift.”*

The believer does not receive Christ as a reward but as a free gift. The believer does not receive Jesus Christ as a result of his works; he receives Christ through the gracious mercy and love of God almighty.

The hymn writer put it like this:

**“Naked I come to thee for dress
Helpless I come to thee for rest
Vile I to the fountain fly
Wash me Saviour or I die.**

In my hands no price I bring (The believer sees Christ with empty hands)
Simply to the cross of Christ I cling

**Could my tears forever flow?
Could my zeal no languor know?
These for sin could never atone
Christ must save and Christ alone.”**

We have Christ freely, freely!

Fifthly: The Gospel presents Christ sincerely!

Now, **1 Timothy 1:15** says, *“This is a true saying”* (it’s not to be argued, it’s not to be debated; it’s to be accepted). *“It’s a true saying and it’s worthy of all acceptation (or acceptation by all men) Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.”*

If you come to Christ you will find rest. God says that. If you receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour you will receive peace. Christ said, *“My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I you; let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

I guarantee this and I cannot guarantee God will save anybody because I do not know men’s hearts but I guarantee this; if any person feels the guilt and the weight and the burden of sin and feels his own helplessness and inability to put away that guilt and that burden and that load and wants to know the living God and wants to be cleansed and wants to be forgiven.

And that person sees that Jesus Christ is provided by God and given by God and ordained of God to put away the guilt of sinners and that person will receive Christ; I don’t know to what degree of faith or to what extent of faith but whatever faith he has; will lay hold on Christ, and sue for mercy in the name of Christ. Cast ourselves at the feet of Christ and say, “Lord; let Christ be my

propitiation. Be propitiated to me. Be merciful unto me the sinner.” I believe God will save that person.

But, you can't come with one hand behind your back. You can't come with your fists doubled up in rebellion against God. You can't come and say: “Well, I'll do this and I'll do that but I won't do something else:”

You can't come and say: “I believe this Scripture but I don't believe that Scripture.” You can't come and say: “I'll do this but I won't do something else.” No sir! You come like the leper: “*Lord, if you will, you can make me whole.*” Like blind Bartimaeus: “*Lord, that I might see you.*”

Like the thief on the cross; these people were helpless. They weren't dictating terms to God; they were laying themselves open to His terms of surrender and His terms of unconditional surrender.

Our generation has dictated terms to God too long and that's the reason God has done nothing for us. That's the reason we have the phoniest, most artificial, counterfeit, religious revival going on in this day that ever plagued mankind and all the generations mankind's been on this earth.

The power of God is missing. The glory of God is missing and the presence of God is missing. People know what to believe but they don't know whom they believe. “*Eternal life is to know the living God and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent.*”

Don't you get hungry for the very presence and power and glory of God, for we are not going to see that glory until we shut up to God's mercy.

Now, I am going to give you five things and close. You say, “Preacher, how may I know if I have saving faith?”

Well, there are some characteristics with which faith is identified or evidenced and they can't be imitated and they can't be denied. There are five evidences of saving faith that cannot be denied and they cannot be imitated. I'll give them to you briefly:

First of all: Saving faith knows who Christ is!

He's not a superstar. He's not sweet, little, Jesus boy. He's not a poor, little, frustrated, defeated, disappointed, disillusioned Jesus; He's the God, the very God of very God. He's the very image of God. He's God manifested in human flesh. Faith knows that.

Paul said: “*I know whom I have believed.*” Faith knows who Christ is. “*I know whom I have believed.*” The demons knew who he was; they said, “*Well, we know who you are. You are the holy one of Israel. Have you come to torment us before our time?*”

The Father knew who He was. He said: *“This is my beloved Son; hear (listen to) him.”* Thomas knew who he was. He fell at his feet and said, *“My Lord and my God.”* Do you know who He is? Faith knows who Christ is.

Secondly: Faith rests totally on the Word of God and not on anything else, not on a church catechism, church creed or church confession of faith but the Word of God

We believe it because God said it and that’s why we believe it. Faith is born of the Word of God: *“Of his own will begat he us through the word of truth.”* Faith grows on the Word of God, *“desire the sincere milk of the word that you may grow thereby.”*

Faith’s assurance is the Word of God: *“These things are written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

Thirdly: Saving faith embraces Christ with a sincere love!

“To you who believe; he is precious,” He’s precious and everything about Him is precious. His Word is precious, His people are precious, His will is precious, and His commandments are precious; they are not grievous.

Everything about Christ is precious. His day is precious. His people are precious. His glory is precious. His world is precious and His heaven is precious. Everything about Him is precious. His blood is precious.

Saving faith embraces Christ with a sincere love. *“Peter, do you love me? Lord, you know I love you; then feed my sheep.”* You will if you love Him.

You don’t have to pledge people to give if they love Christ. You don’t have to beg people to come to church if they love Christ. You don’t have to beg people to read the Word of God. If they love Christ everything about Christ is precious to them.

You don’t have to have a quartet to get people to come worship God on Sunday morning if they love Christ. They love to come to the house of God. Like David, they said: *“I’m glad they said unto me let’s go to the house of God.”* I’d rather be a janitor in the house of God than dwell in the tents of the wicked as the lord or master.

Fourthly: Saving faith is the consent of the will; it’s the agreement and confession of the mouth!

Yes sir! Our Lord has no secret disciples; all of His disciples stand up and are counted. They raise the flag of Jesus Christ the Lord right at the top of the masthead. I use to be in the Navy. I was a signalman. We kept our flag just as high as she would go when we were over in enemy waters.

We wanted to know whose side we were on. I believe every believer wants everybody to know whose side he’s on. Christ is my Lord.

Last of all: Saving faith justifies God whether in mercy or in judgment!

Job said: “*The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away.*” Praise God! Can you do that?
Saving faith can whether in mercy or judgment: “*The Lord gave, (thank God) but the Lord took it away, (thank God) blessed be the name of the Lord*”!