IS YOUR FAITH THE FAITH THAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR

Colossians 2:12-13a

There is so much doctrine or biblical teaching about our relationship with Jesus Christ in Colossians 2:9-14.

We have examined the truths of our relationship with Christ in Colossians 2:9-12

9	For <u>in Him</u>	all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
10	and <u>in Him</u> you	have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;
11	and <u>in Him</u> you	were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh (and this happened) by the circumcision <u>of Christ</u> ;
	(this spiritual circu	mcision of Christ was accomplished by)
12	been buried <u>with</u>	in which <u>you</u> were also raised up <u>with Him</u> through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Today we continue in verse 12 *this spiritual circumcision of Christ (verse 11) was accomplished in* you—having been buried with Him The AORIST PASSIVE PARTICIPLE refers to something that happens to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior in the Church AGE; you have already received being buried with Him at the moment you believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

The important point to remember when you read this is that this phrase *having been buried wih Him* explains the phrase in verse 11 by the circumcision of Christ which by the way explains in Him you have been made complete.

So, the procedure that occurred in our Salvation: first: **you have been made complete** made perfect in righteousness. This by **the circumcision of Christ** this by **the baptism of the Holy Spirit**.

Having been buried with Him in or *by means of* Baptism This is not referring to water baptism; this happens to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior whether they receive water baptism or not; This is referring to the real baptism or the real identification which is **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**.

What does it mean to be buried with Him?

On the cross, JESUS CHRIST died in our place; WE <u>belonged</u> on that cross; but JESUS CHRIST took our place, therefore, when we believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior it is as though we had died on that cross with Christ.

Our former (*as unbelievers*) sinful self was buried with Him and when we are raised with Him, we are Justified before God and, therefore, Saved Forever.

Our old sinful self is dead to us. This is why every time we sin we are raising the dead, we are bringing back our sinful self that was buried with Christ.

Having been buried with Him in or *by means of* Baptism in which that is, in the baptism of the Holy Spirit **you were also raised up with Him** [also = not only were you buried with Him but you were also raised up with Him.]

What does it mean to be raised up with Him?	
1	We have seen there is a negative and a positive to the gospel. The negative is the taking away of sins. This is covered in the fact that we were buried with Him.
2	But there is the positive side of the gospel. Having our sins taken away does not result in salvation. We must have the imputation of God's Perfect Righteousness—this results in Justification which results in imputation of Eternal Life; this is pictured in this statement— raised up with Him.
З	We are identified with Christ in His resurrection, we share His resurrection, we share His resurrection which means we share in His Eternal Life.

Raised with Christ also carries the future hope{confidence} of our receiving a Resurrected body, just like His at the Rapture.

Now, how did all this come about?

Having been buried with Him by means of Baptism in which you were also raised up with Him <u>through faith</u>

or the Greek preposition *dia* plus the genitive

- by means of faith.

4

It still amazes me the number of otherwise sound teachers desire to take away someone's eternal salvation.

People: You did nothing to earn your salvation You can do nothing to lose it.

Our Eternal Salvation {security} is dependent on the Faithfulness of God, which these teachers deny.

What we have here with the phrase **by means of faith** refers to the moment of Salvation.

Salvation is not something that God just holds out there and you can lose it.

No, Salvation is something God does in a moment of time

This phrase goes all the way back to verse 10. People, please stay with the context and the flow of the verbs.

Verse 10 In Him you have been made complete

This phrase is made up of PERFECT PASSIVE INDICATIVE of the status quo verb, the **'to be'** verb followed by the PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE of the verb meaning **full** or **complete**.

This is rich in Greek syntax. The PERFECT TENSE is what we call an INTENSIVE PERFECT which puts emphasis on the present result of a past action. In the past—at the moment of your Faith in JESUS CHRIST God the Father did some 34 things to you, and one of those was to impute His Perfect Righteousness to you and made you Perfect Righteousness, and added to this, He imputed His Life to you, making you complete and, therefore, qualified to live with Him Forever.

The PASSIVE VOICE simply enriches what happened, you received being made complete from God by His Grace... you did nothing to be made complete.

Now, added to these absolutes (absolute status verb **'are'**; plus the PERFECT PASSIVE) added to these that this is a <u>predicate</u> makes a statement about the subject.

Here God makes the declaration that at the point of '**Faith**' (verse 12). He, makes you complete, this is what you are before God.

And yet there are many preachers who want to take this away from you.

Oh, yes, these pastors say

"it was by Faith Alone in Christ Alone that God made you complete, BUT LATER YOU CAN UNDO WHAT GOD HAS

DONE". That, dear people, is **blasphemy**.

God made you Complete—Perfect—Holy in Christ the moment you believed in JESUS CHRIST as your Savior. and as JESUS CHRIST declared, no one can take you out of His hand, nor out of His Father's hand.

(John 10:28-29).

²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

Yet these teachers like to teach that "you can live in sins or even just certain sins and lose your Salvation..." in other words, JESUS CHRIST did not die for the judgment of those sins.

Oh, people, please learn to think Theologically and not be persuaded by *sound persuasíve arguments*. (Colossians 2:4)

We are looking at the phrase **by means of faith** in Colossians 2:12.

We have seen that it goes back to the PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE of verse 10.

It also goes back to verse 11, where we have the AORIST PASSIVE INDICATIVE **you are circumcised.** The AORIST TENSE tells us this happened once and for all... at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST.

And then Faith goes back in immediate verse 12 where we are said **to have been buried with Him** and **raised with Him**: both in the AORIST TENSE and PASSIVE VOICE referring to the one time we are buried with Him and raised with Him.

It is amazing that these preachers are so set on sending believers to eternal damnation, in spite of all that God did to guarantee us with Eternal Life Him.

All, by means of faith

Faith

The study of **Faith** is so important to every believer. Books are written just on the subject of **Faith**. The first thing we are going to do is to let the Bible teach us about **Faith**. I.

Biblical answer: Hebrews 11:1

 Now faith is <u>the assurance</u> of *things* hoped for, <u>the conviction</u> of things not seen.

Now in light of chapter 10 and this is introducing a new subject. Faith pistis same Greek word we are seeing in Colossians 2:12. Is OK, here is God's definition of Faith; PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE *eimi* introduces absolute states. Telling what Faith is... the assurance (King James) the substance; (New International Version) being sure Greek reality; essence, substance, basis of something assurance; the word is a compound: **stasis** to stand; **hupo** under that which stands under—a foundation - the ground upon which one builds;

Now, this word can be used as a legal term.

As a legal term, it refers to all the evidence that property belongs to one person. Therefore, **"Faith is the title deed of things hoped for."**

The Holy Spirit takes the Faith that one has in JESUS CHRIST, as the title deed which God recognizes and guarantees him with the possession of the thing for which he trusted:

JESUS CHRIST for Salvation;

Holy Spirit for Spirituality and

God the Father for Faithfulness and Love.

Thus having this title deed he has the assurance of things hoped for.

Of things hoped for PRESENT MIDDLE PARTICIPLE hoped for:

Salvation 1 and 2; and

Living the Spirit Filled Life.

The conviction of things not seen

King James evidence

New International Version **and certain of what we do not see** Greek to convince; to make certain; **Evidence Of things not seen**

Faith	apprehends as fact what is not revealed in the senses or by rationalism or empiricism.
Faith	rests on that fact of reality and acts on that fact.
Faith	is upheld by this assurance in spite of all that seems to contradict it.
Faith	is the conviction that something is true.
Faith	means abandoning all trust in one's own resources. Mental, Emotional, Senses.
Faith	means casting oneself unreservedly on the mercy of God.
Faith	means laying hold on the Promises of God in Christ, relying entirely on the Finished Work of Christ on the cross for Salvation, and on the Power of the Indwelling Holy Spirit of God for daily strength.
Faith	implies complete reliance on God.

Faith is an Act of Trust; Rest;

What I mean by this is that I can <u>say</u>-or-claim that "I believe that that chair will hold me up" but until I go over and <u>sit</u> in that chair, rely on that chair to hold me up...there is no Faith.

Faith is act of our self-will; an act of consciously resting in the power, and sufficiency of someone or something and Faith is submitting to this person or object to perform on your behalf:

You can see from this that Faith depends completely on the **Object**.

Now let us look at this brief definition in reference to this chair....

Faith is conscious act--Faith response--of resting in power and-or sufficiency of someone –

Here, My Faith in that chair will be exercised only when I actually go over and rest in strength and sufficiency of that chair to hold me up.

Do I believe this chair is sufficient to hold me up or not... and the only way we will know is if I sit in it... that sitting, is the **Act of Faith**-- Faith in Action. **Faith** is letting this person or object perform in your behalf.. as an <u>act of **Faith**</u> then I will sit and let that chair perform in my behalf--hold me up; sustain me!

II.	Faith is all important to God:
	Salvation is by Faith
Biblical answer: E	phesians 2:8-9
8	For by grace you have been saved through or by means of faith; and that not of yourselves, <i>it is</i> the gift of God;
9	not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
Biblical answer: Jo	ohn 3:16
	"For in this manner God so loved the world, <u>that</u> He gave His only begotten Son, that <u>whoever</u> <u>believes</u> in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
like to teach that if	od that this Faith is a once and for all Faith. Some you stop trusting in JESUS CHRIST you lose your study the syntax of the text we discover that living

Salvation. But if we study the syntax of the text we discover that living the Christian life is in the present tense—daily—over and over or continually Living by Faith.

But Salvation is by One Act of Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. In Ephesians 2:8 **you have been saved** once and for always.

As we know the moment one believes in JESUS CHRIST God does some 34 things that are permanent—guaranteeing Eternal Security. But in living the Christian life—we live by Faith... moment by moment, the

second you stop trusting in the Holy Spirit, you will sin, and to get back into the Filling of the Holy Spirit, all you have to do is to continue what you stopped doing... trusting in the Holy Spirit.

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III.

The only way to please God is by Faith

Biblical answer: Hebrews 11:6

- 6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him,* for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- IV. The obedience that God is looking for is the Obedience that is Faith

Biblical answer: Romans 1:5

8 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, This is in the first sentence of Romans and Paul restates this in the last sentence of Romans 16:26

26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith;

V .	In the definition of sin, sin is anything we do,
	say or think not by Faith

Biblical answer: Romans 14:23

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats,
because *his eating is* not from faith; and
whatever is not from faith is sin.

VI.	The believer in JESUS CHRIST is to walk or
	live by Faith, not by what he sees.

Biblical answer: 2 Corinthians 5:7

8 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

Biblical answer: Habakkuk 2:4

4 "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith. Biblical answer: 2 Corinthians 5:7

8 Galatians 3:11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Biblical answer: Hebrews 10:37-38

37 **FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY** REFERRING TO THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST PRECEDED BY THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH WHICH HAS NOW BEEN SOME **2** THOUSAND YEARS....

Biblical answer: 2 Corinthians 5:7

³⁸ **BUT** IN SPITE OF THE LAPSE OF TIME **MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.** (goes back to

Hebrews 11:6)

VII.	From Spiritual Birth
	(born from above John 3:3; born again
	1 Peter 1:23)
	to living out his-or-her life as one who lives
	by Faith.

Biblical answer: Romans 1:17

17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; (From being saved by Faith in JESUS CHRIST to living by Faith in the Holy Spirit) as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

VIII.	How do we increase our daily walking by
	Faith?

Biblical answer: Romans 10:17

17	So faith <i>comes</i> from hearing, and hearing by the
	word of Christ. The Faithful Believer is one
	who increases in the Knowledge of God
	(Colossians 1:10 and grows in the knowledge
	of our Lord, JESUS CHRIST). The more you
	grow in the knowledge of the WORD OF
	GOD, the easier it is to live by simple Faith.

IX.	Is hearing the Word of God enough before
	God? No!
	It must be mixed with Faith.

Biblical answer: Hebrews 4:2

² For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was <u>not united by</u> <u>faith in</u> those who heard. In order to grow spiritually in the Knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST and of the entire WORD OF GOD we must believe what the Holy Spirit reveals to us in the WORD OF GOD.

X.	How much Faith is God looking for to save and to live by daily?	
Faith the size of a	Faith the size of a Mustard Seed. Matthew 17:	
17	And He *said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have <u>faith the size of a mustard seed</u> , you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.	

How much Faith is God looking for to save us from condemned enemies for all eternity with Him? *faith the size of a mustard seed.* And now that we are saved how much Faith is God looking for to see us through tribulations in life?

XI.	It is <u>not only</u> important that we know that it
	is by Faith, and what Faith is, but it is so
	important to know WHY FAITH?

Why are we saved by means of Faith and Why do we live by Faith?

Faith always puts God's Sufficiency; God's Power, God's Essence and God's Faithfulness <u>to the test in the spiritual</u> <u>warfare</u>!

And since the whole **ANGELIC CONFLICT**... centers around sufficiency of God to be God... and not Satan who declared "I am".

Isaiah 47:8 and 10 Salvation and receiving any blessing from God must be on the basis of Faith.

The issue of <u>ANGELIC CONFLICT</u>:

Who is sufficient to be God Faith of the creature resolves **ANGELIC CONFLICT**; if God acts because of something we do... then all angelic eyes are on us... and what we offer God... but if all we offer is our Faith, then all eyes are on God, is their feeble Faith going to cause you to bless them?

Faith – if it is by Faith and nothing but Faith, then God receives all the glory! Not the creature.

This is why Faith from standpoint of the ANGRLIC CONFLICT between God and Satan; but there is another reason as to WHY FAITH!

And that is **the total helplessness** of man;

We cannot save ourselves, We cannot recover ourselves from Sin. We cannot remove the defilement of sin from ourselves... We cannot make ourselves righteous.

XII. The issue of Faith is always the **OBJECT** of Faith, not how much Faith, but the **OBJECT** of faith... can the **OBJECT** perform... not Faith but the **OBJECT**! We are not saved by Faith, we are not restored by Faith, we are saved by Work of JESUS CHRIST and restored by work of the Holy Spirit. Substance of Faith: Faith has no power. There is no power in Faith. Faith has no merit. There is no merit or power in Faith. POWER, MERIT, IS IN OBJECT OF FAITH.

It is so important that we understand there is no power, no merit in Faith.

This is why it does not matter if you have a lot of Faith or a small amount of Faith... Faith does not work, God does the Work! Faith receives from the OBJECT of Faith; Faith is a passive verb, which means it is not our doing but our receiving what God has done for us.

We have a choice:

We can put our Faith in **ourselves** or we can put our Faith in **others**; that is we can put our Faith in **creature power** or we can put our Faith in **God**, **invisible**, **yet real**;

We can decide to put our Faith in ourselves--that we can handle the situation, that we can solve our problems – of course, this leads to one of the great all-time delusions... Control, that we are in Control! Control is an illusion, not an answer, not reality! Thinking that he can control things, leads to deepest disorientation in life and the highest degree of arrogance.

It leads man into thinking that he can save himself or deliver himself from sin or make himself Righteous.

This kind of thinking always leads people to adhere to, or join – follow some man or denomination that preaches some system of works—some ritual's; or invite Jesus into your heart; or Lordship Salvation; or Strict Morality, even Knowledge alone; or Charismatic Emotional Experiences; or Service and people rush after some system of works – rejecting simple Faith, wanting to be part of the equation of their own salvation, wanting to help God, do their part.

People, our part is simply, grain of mustard seed Faith. We can simply <u>TRUST</u> God, <u>TRUST</u> Christ, <u>TRUST</u> Spirit of God <u>TRUST</u> the Word of God.

And sooner or later, God will place every one of us in that hopeless position where we have to rely on Him **test of Faith**, **Endurance of Faith**.

1 Peter 1:

¹ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; People, please understand that you will daily in your lives have your Faith tested. Do you truly trust Him?

XII.	Point 12 ask another very important	
	Question:	
	Is your Faith the Faith God is	
	looking for?	

Almost everyone will <u>claim</u> they are doing Faith! But is it the Faith that God is looking for?

Here is what most people claim they believe. Proposition 1

I (God) will do for you <u>if</u> you do for me. I Promise... Trust me

vs.

Proposition 2

I (God) have done everything for you. I Promise... Trust me!

You will notice in Proposition 1, you have to do for God; then Trust Him. (In effect, you are actually trusting in what you do.) This is one of the reasons for so many denominations and movements throughout Church history... they each have a different list on what you must do for God.

But in Proposition 2 you simply trust What God has already done for you. You receive what God has done for you.

Faith that Glorifies God in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** is Faith whose OBJECT is a member of Godhead. Faith that Glorifies God is shifting our Faith from ourselves, from others and from circumstances and consciously, moment-by-moment TRUSTING IN Power, Love, Sufficiency of God in our behalf. It is not Faith in Faith, it is not Faith in what I do; it is Faith in a member of the Godhead.

It is our Faith that allows God to work in our lives; it is our Faith that releases power of God in our behalf. If we try to take care of it in flesh... we lose out on allowing God to work in our behalf.

So, be honest enough to ask yourself.

Is my Faith, the Faith that God is looking for?

XIII.	Now that we have an idea of what Faith is and the Faith God is looking for, the challenge is the endurance of Faith.		
2 Thessalonians 1:4			
	4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance-endurance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.		
And THE ENDURANCE OF FAITH			
means that we CONTINUE TO TRUST HIM,			
even when it seems there is no reason to Trust Him			
and there is no evidence that God loves you,			
or that God cares about you:			
WILL YOU CONTINUE TO TRUST HIM?			
2017-09-17 Sunday Service			

VERSE 1

I HEARD AN OLD, OLD STORY, HOW A SAVIOR CAME FROM GLORY, HOW HE GAVE HIS LIFE ON CALVARY TO SAVE A WRETCH LIKE ME; I HEARD ABOUT HIS GROANING, OF HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD'S ATONING, THEN I REPENTED OF MY SINS AND WON THE VICTORY.

CHORUS

O VICTORY IN JESUS, MY SAVIOR, FOREVER. HE SOUGHT ME AND BOUGHT ME WITH HIS REDEEMING BLOOD; HE LOVED ME ERE I KNEW HIM AND ALL MY LOVE IS DUE HIM, HE PLUNGED ME TO VICTORY, BENEATH THE CLEANSING FLOOD.

VERSE 2

I HEARD ABOUT HIS HEALING, OF HIS CLEANSING POW'R REVEALING. HOW HE MADE THE LAME TO WALK AGAIN AND CAUSED THE BLIND TO SEE; AND THEN I CRIED, "DEAR JESUS, COME AND HEAL MY BROKEN SPIRIT," AND SOMEHOW JESUS CAME AND BRO'T TO ME THE VICTORY.

CHORUS

VERSE 3

I HEARD ABOUT A MANSION HE HAS BUILT FOR ME IN GLORY. AND I HEARD ABOUT THE STREETS OF GOLD BEYOND THE CRYSTAL SEA; ABOUT THE ANGELS SINGING, AND THE OLD REDEMPTION STORY, AND SOME SWEET DAY I'LL SING UP THERE THE SONG OF VICTORY.

CHORUS O VICTORY IN JESUS, MY SAVIOR, FOREVER. HE SOUGHT ME AND BOUGHT ME WITH HIS REDEEMING BLOOD; HE LOVED ME ERE I KNEW HIM AND ALL MY LOVE IS DUE HIM, HE PLUNGED ME TO VICTORY, BENEATH THE CLEANSING FLOOD.



CALVARY COVERS IT ALL

CHORUS CALVARY COVERS IT ALL MY PAST WITH ITS SIN AND STAIN MY GUILT AND DESPAIR JESUS TOOK ON HIM THERE AND CALVARY COVERS IT ALL			
VERSE 1	VERSE 2		
Far dearer than all	The stripes that He bore		
That the world can impart	And the thorns that He wore		
Was the message that came to my heart	Told His mercy and love evermore		
, How that Jesus alone	And my heart bowed in		
For my sin did atone	shame		
, And Calvary covers it all	As I called on His name		
	And Calvary covers it all		
VERSE 3	VERSE 4		
How matchless the grace When I looked on the face Of this Jesus my crucified Lord My redemption complete I then found at His feet And Calvary covers it all	How blessed the thought That my soul by Him bought Shall be His in the glory on high Where with gladness and song I'll be one of the throng And Calvary covers it all		

Calvary Covers It All 96 Mrs. WALTER G. TAYLOR Mrs. WALTER G. TAYLOR 1. Far dear - er than all that the world can im - part Was the mes-sage that 2. The stripes that He bore and the thorns that He wore Told His mer - cy and 3. How matchless the grace, when I looked in the face Of this Je-sus, my 4. How bless-ed the thought, that my soul by Him bought, Shall be His in the came to my heart (to my heart); How that Je - sus a - lone for my love ev - er - more (ev - er - more); And my heart bowed in shame as I cru - ci - fied Lord (of my Lord); My re-demp - tion com-plete Ι then glo - ry on high (His on high); Where with gladness and song I'll be 10 a - tone. And Cal - va - ry cov - ers sin did it all all. called on His name, And Cal - va - ry cov - ers it all. found at His feet, And Cal - va - ry cov - ers it of the throng, And Cal - va - ry cov - ers it all. one cov - ers it CHORUS past with its sin and stain; Mv it Μv Cal - va-ry cov-ers all guilt and de-spair Je-sus took on Him there, And Cal-va-ry cov-ers it all.