

Nico preached to us on the Gospel from Romans 1.

The next week Jeff preached a sermon called "Why Would Anyone Reject the Gospel."

Finally Ronny preached a sermon last week about Saving Faith.

I fully intended to preach this week on the topic of Faith vs. Reason. So many people mistakenly think that these two were in contradiction. They are not! But that is a topic for another day.

Besides that, you've heard me say before that I am convinced no one who rejects God does it because of a lack of evidence. They reject God because they don't want Him, or worse they Hate Him.

How Can I say something so bold?

Romans 1:19-20

What does that Mean?

It means there is a Reason to believe in God. The evidence is all around us. So, people have no good excuse when they reject God. So, all the reasons they give are just excuses.

But does the Bible Encourage us to have faith without reason? NO WAY!

Here are just a few verses.

Proverbs 4:5, Proverbs 4:7, Proverbs 16:16, Proverbs 19:8, 1 Peter 3:15

Now, are Wisdom and Knowledge the same thing? NO, but you cannot have wisdom without knowledge. Wisdom is knowledge plus understanding.

For example if someone learns about DNA they have gained knowledge. If based on that knowledge they reject GOD they have become fools. But, if instead they see how that evidence shows the Glory of God, that is wisdom.

I believe that you could call true wisdom a Supernatural Wisdom, because it doesn't just happen naturally to everyone, but it is a gift from GOD.

Now onto the true topic for today: Faith. What? Ronny preached on that last week right? Yep!

This is round two. Today's message is about Supernatural Faith.

Just like wisdom there is natural faith and Supernatural faith.

What is Natural faith? This is what everyone uses everyday, including the most avid atheist.

When you go into surgery you are practicing natural faith because You are TRUSTING that this person knows what they are doing, and puts everything back in its proper place. Anyone can practice this kind of faith. It is natural.

Same thing with sitting on a chair. All of you are practicing natural faith right now because you are trusting your body weight will be held up by the chair you are sitting in. You are literally putting your butts on the line. It is reasonable to believe that right? Because you have sat in plenty of chairs and they have probably mostly held you up just fine. I will admit I have sat in a few that broke under my weight. But consider this with all the evidence that you base your Chair faith on, as reasonable as it is, you still don't really know, you don't have proof, until you sit down of course. Before you sit down, you don't know if I have removed all of the bolts and loosened all the joints. It could crash as soon as you sit on it. You don't know. So you sit down, because of your reasonable, natural faith.

It is not blind faith though, it is based on reasons. It is reasonable.

It's Just like with wisdom. We all get natural wisdom, but Supernatural wisdom only comes as a gift from God. Likewise we all have natural faith, but God gives a Supernatural faith to His children.

How can I say Supernatural Faith is a Gift? Supernatural Faith, as I am calling it by the way, means the same thing as the Saving Faith Ronny preached about.

Ephesians 2:8-9

So, now let's take a closer look at what scripture says about this Supernatural faith that comes as a gift from God.

Hebrews 1:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- What is Supernatural faith?
 - Ronny showed us Saving Faith involves Knowledge, Assent, Trust.
 - This verse just magnifies that by saying Saving faith is Characterized by Substance and Evidence.
 - The ESV translates those words Assurance, and Conviction respectively.
 - ὑπόστασις (hypostasis) A Firm Foundation, and Assurance
 - ἔλεγχος (elenchos) A thing that is Proven by Trial, Evidence, Or Conviction.

2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

- How were people in the Old Testament saved?
 - Answer: by faith. We will give examples in a moment.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- He starts at the beginning, as any good Gospel presentation should..
- Everything was created out of Nothing when God Spoke it into existence.
 - This is an important foundational part of our faith.
 - (John 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made

4 **By faith** Abel 5 **By faith** Enoch ... 7 **By faith** Noah, ...8 **By faith** Abraham ... 11 **By faith** Sarah ...17 **By faith** Abraham, ...20 **By faith** Isaac ... 21 **By faith** Jacob, ... 22 **By faith** Joseph, ...23 **By faith** Moses, ...29 **By faith** the people ... 31 **By faith** Rahab ..32 **And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith ...**

- Do we really need more examples?
- Golden rule of Biblical Interpretation: Pay special attention to repetition.
 - I think we get the point

39 And all these, though commended through their faith,

- They were “Commended” (Saved) through their faith.

did not receive what was promised,

- The true object of their faith was not revealed to them.
- Their true salvation from their true enslavement.
- They never got to see Jesus while on this earth.

40 since God had provided something better for us,

- The Apostles received the direct revelation of the true object of our faith who saves us: Jesus! They got to see Jesus first hand.
- We receive this revelation from the Apostles in Scripture. We see Jesus in Scripture.
 - Side Note: Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believed.” Clue: it is Past tense.

that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

- If Jesus had not come, if the Gospel the Apostles wrote down had never happened, the Old Testament believers would have believed in vain.

At the beginning we said that Saving faith is Characterized by Assurance and Conviction.

What does this look like?

How Do I Know I am In The Faith?

The Test of Knowing Him

(1 John 3:1-6) Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

OK So One more question might be on your mind. If Supernatural Saving Faith only comes from God, and you don't see the evidence in your life that you are saved, then how can you get saved?

Ask Him. He gives freely.

Hebrews 11:6 But 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 diligently seek Him.