

Faith and Acceptance



Nebraska is home to the second richest person in the world, Warren Buffett, who's net worth is \$42 Billion. With that kind of money you would think that he could buy anything. But there's one thing that even Mr. Buffett cannot buy.

Misterpoll.com asked, "Which is the most intelligent people in the world?" The highest vote-getting people group was Indians of India (27%). Whether or not that's true, there is also something that intellect cannot procure:

"Heaven's forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by your own efforts, to secure it. But God offers it to you as a gift, "without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1. It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it...

"You have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away. You have resolved to give yourself to God. Now go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this *because He has promised.*"—*Steps to Christ* p. 32

In this, the sixth in our series, "Steps To Christ: How to be ready for Jesus to come" we'll look at the topic, "Faith and Acceptance".

John 20:31—The essence of today's message is "BELIEVE". God has clearly laid out the steps of salvation, but many people are not willing to believe that He really has made it so simple. When we choose not to believe God we rob ourselves of the blessings that He so eagerly wants to pour on us.

2 Peter 1:16—God doesn't demand that we blindly believe "just because". He has given us evidence in things that can be seen and tested so that we can be positively sure of His promise even in the times when we can't see it.

Ephesians 1:7, 8—The Bible teaches us that if we have come to Jesus in repentance, confession, and consecration (as discussed earlier in this series), Jesus has given us redemption and forgiveness through His blood and grace. His word is trustworthy enough to bet your life on.

When I buy something with my credit card I swipe the card and sign the receipt. I don't have to give them any money at the moment because I promised to pay and my promise is sealed with my signature and backed by Visa. The store owner trusts that he will get his money.

The promise of forgiveness and salvation is similar. When I confess my sins to God and surrender my will to Him He promises me salvation. That promise is sealed with Jesus' blood on the cross and backed, not just by a company, but by the God of the universe!

Mark 11:24—"There is a condition to this promise--that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them. It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse. 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Romans 8:1."—*Ibid* p.34

Ezekiel 18:32—God tells us that He wants to save us and that He is able to save us if we but turn to Him in repentance. But Satan tries to create a different picture of God. He accuses God of being out to get us. He tries to rob us of God's blessings by planting doubt.

"Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. He desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from the soul; but you must not permit him to do this. Do not give ear to the tempter, but say, 'Jesus has died that I might live. He loves me, and wills not that I should perish. I have a compassionate heavenly Father; and although I have abused His love, though the blessings He has given me have been squandered, I will arise, and go to my Father, and say, 'I have sinned against heaven, and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy son: make me as one of Thy hired servants.'" The parable tells you how the wanderer will be received: 'When he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.' Luke 15:18-20."—*Ibid* pp.35, 36

Colossians 2:6-8—Now that you have become a child of God, don't waste your time doubting His ability to save you; rather live in Him through Bible study and constant prayer. This is how you can grow up into Him. One of the favorite songs in Logos this year says, "Read your Bible, pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow." The message of that song is true! And as we grow, grow, grow up as Christians we must Hold on to His promises and truth so that we don't get lead astray.



The fifth step in order to have a relationship with God and be ready to meet Him is to believe that He saved you, and live your life based on that fact.

Ill 2. Brown Paper bag with toy in it. The words, "inside this bag is something that you will enjoy. It will not hurt you." Invite kid to come up to the bag and get the thing out of the bag. I will warn the kid of the danger. Put gloves on his hands. Goggles over the eyes.