

**Salvation - John 3:16: The Faith Response**

**Barry, Dave. "He Knows Not What he Writes." In Dave Barry's Greatest Hits. New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1988.**

Next comes the subject to whom this action is directed; the pronoun: *pas* - "anyone"

1. Please note who qualifies to participate in the purpose of God's gift of His Son to the world: the entire human race.
2. This is grace. The only criterion to qualify for this grace is that God imputed to you soul life at physical birth.
3. Who may receive the saving grace of God? Any who are alive!
4. How can this potential become a reality? The answer is found next in the present active participle of the verb: *pisteuo* - "to believe"

present - Gnomic; refers to that which is an aphorism. An aphorism is a brief statement of a principle. When found in Scripture it becomes a universal point of doctrine which is always true.

active - Any member of the human race can believe in Jesus Christ and have eternal life.

participle - Circumstantial; the action of the present participle accompanies the action of the main verb.

1. The main verb is *didomi*, "to give."
2. God's unconditional love for the human race resulted in Him giving His Son.
3. God gave His Son for the purpose that you would believe in Him.
4. A gift to be a gift must have no strings attached. A gift is offered free of charge and all the beneficiary has to do is accept it.
5. When someone gives you a present you never think to pay them for it.
6. It is understood that you did not earn it or deserve it. The benefactor gave it to you from his own motivation.
7. You simply must believe that this has occurred and that the gift is for you to enjoy.
8. All you must do to make the gift yours is believe that it belongs to you.
9. When you accept the gift, you immediately take personal possession of it.
10. The verb "to believe" is a transitive verb and thus its merit lies in the object-that in which you believe.
11. That in which you are to believe is stated next in the prepositional phrase:

*eis* + the accusative of the pronoun: *autos* - "in Him"

1. What must you do to be saved? Believe in Jesus Christ.
2. Please note that no other requirements are mentioned: no works, no penance, no vows, no sacrifices, no commitment. Just faith in Christ.
3. The Plan of salvation is entirely the work of God.
4. The sacrifice which provides salvation is entirely the work of Christ.

5. The power which appropriates salvation is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit.
6. The only condition for salvation is a nonmeritorious faith in Jesus Christ plus absolutely nothing else!
7. The Scriptures, including the statements of Jesus Himself are crystal clear on this subject. Let's note a few:

**John 3:18** - He who believes [*pisteuo*] in Him [**Jesus Christ**] is not judged but he who does not believe [*pisteuo*] has been judged already because he has not believed [*pisteuo*] in the person of the uniquely-born Son of God.

**John 3:36** - He who believes [*pisteuo*] in the Son has eternal life but he who does not believe [*pisteuo*] the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abides on him.

**John 6:47** - Truly I say to you, he who believes [*pisteuo*] in Me has eternal life.

**John 11:25** - I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes [*pisteuo*] in Me shall live even if he dies.