

Knowledge Results from Faith in Christ and Doctrine

The intensiveness indicated here shows that the small faith of a child, which is all that is necessary to save you, becomes progressively deeper and stronger as you grow in grace. This faith has advanced to the level of extreme confidence in Paul's soul.

Having learned through spiritual growth about the intricate details of our Lord's divine nature, His hypostatic union, the mechanics of Operation Reconciliation, the perfection of the plan of salvation, and the Lord's infinite integrity, Paul is absolutely convinced that Christ will guard his deposit of faith until the moment of his physical death. Paul is convinced that his deposit is safe in the cache of Christ both for time and for eternity.

Paul next indicates the object of his faith, knowledge, and confidence with the locative of sphere from the singular relative pronoun: *hos* - "in Whom." Refers to Jesus Christ as the object of one's faith for the purpose of salvation, eternal security, and entrée into heaven.

This is followed by the perfect active indicative of the verb: *pisteuo* - "I have believed."

Emphasizes faith alone in Christ alone as well as the results of such faith.

perfect: Dramatic; represents the existing status quo and is used for the purpose of describing a fact in an unusually vivid and realistic way. The dramatic perfect emphasizes the results of an action which exist as a continuing status quo.

The New Testament writers used this construction quite frequently. In this statement Paul uses it to convey the idea of an absolute status quo that results from the action described. He says: *I know intensively upon Whom I have believed ...*

His belief in Christ is an action completed in the past. The dramatic perfect tense vividly emphasizes the existing result of that action as an unalterable condition and an absolute reality. The end result and the existing status of placing one's faith alone in Christ alone is the salvation of one's soul. Salvation is the unalterable condition which results from that faith.

In addition to salvation, one may conclude that he is also eternally secure since the results of salvation are unalterable. Further, since one is saved through faith alone in Christ alone, the results of which mean that you remain saved for all eternity, then it follows that this same faith also guarantees your soul's entrée into heaven at physical death.

active: Paul produced the action of believing in Christ alone for His salvation on the Damascus Road in Acts 9.

indicative: Declarative; indicates that Paul's faith in Christ was an historical event stated in Scripture as an absolute fact.

"For I know intensively upon Whom I have believed ..."

Paul establishes the fact of his salvation, the result of which is that he remains saved forever. Next, he comments upon his continued spiritual growth which occurred between A.D. 30 in Acts 9 and A.D. 67 in 2 Timothy 1, a period of 37 years. During this time Paul has acquired constellations of long-term memory traces which provide for him a mental attitude of total confidence in his eternal future. This is expressed by the perfect passive indicative of the verb: *peitho*

"I have received confidence ..."

perfect: Dramatic; describes a fact in an unusually vivid and realistic way while emphasizing the existing results of the action as a continuing status quo.

Paul is pictured as having confidence develop in his soul in the past with the result that he keeps on having that confidence as he writes.

passive: Paul receives the action of the verb through the development of the three spiritual skills.

Paul became very efficient in maintaining the status quo of spirituality through the use of the rebound technique. Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, Paul was able to grow in grace utilizing the grace Apparatus for Perception.

Over the course of 37 years, he acquired an intensive knowledge of Jesus Christ upon Whom he had believed in A.D. 30. From this intensive knowledge of Christ, he developed an unwavering confidence in the Lord's trustworthiness, His integrity, and His faithfulness to do what He had promised which was to save his soul.

This knowledge and this confidence enabled Paul to become extremely efficient at utilizing biblical problem-solving devices while under the varied pressures of the Angelic Conflict. Paul gives us a rundown of all the hardships he was required to endure under his divine commissions of apostle and teacher in:

2 Corinthians 11:23 - Are they [the false apostles mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11:13] servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

2 Corinthians 11:24 - Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

2 Corinthians 11:25 - Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

2 Corinthians 11:26 - I have been on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, in dangers from robbers, in dangers from my countrymen, in dangers from the Gentiles, in dangers in the city, in dangers in the wilderness, in dangers on the sea, in dangers among false brethren;

2 Corinthians 11:27 - I have been fatigued and done hard labor, been through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2 Corinthians 11:28 - Apart from these external exigencies there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.

We know that Paul developed a great efficiency at handling these trials through biblical problem-solving devices because of the mental attitude expressed in:

Romans 8:18 - I calculate [*logizomai*: to reach a conclusion following an evaluation of the facts] that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Thus, the passive voice emphasized that Paul received his confidence over a 37-year period during which he saw the efficiency of grace in the face of overwhelming circumstances.