

Practical Question: Why are these three things important for salvation? In other words, is it true saving faith if one is missing?

Without Knowledge it truly is “blind faith”. Salvation isn’t believing in something, but in Jesus.
Without Agreement there is no coherence or reason to believe.
Without Trust there is no faith. Many people believe Jesus is God’s son, but there is no repentance and change of life.

Tim Keller – How Can I Know God?

If you are not sure you are ready to be a Christian, then make a list of questions to resolve.

Content issues. Do you understand the basics of the Christian message—sin, Jesus as God, sacrifice, faith?

Coherence issues. Are there intellectual problems you have with Christianity? Are there objections to the Christian faith that you cannot resolve in your own mind?

Cost issues. Do you perceive that a move into full Christian faith will cost you dearly? What fears do you have about commitment?

14.3. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.



(Horton, Putting Amazing Back into Grace)

B.B. Warfield (former president of Princeton) writes about faith:

“It is not faith that saves, but faith in Christ...It is not strictly speaking even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ that saves through faith. The saving power resides exclusively not in the act, attitude, or nature of faith, but in the object of faith.”

Practical Question: How do you help someone, who wants to become a Christian, cross the line to put their faith in Christ?

Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapters 14-15
www.pcaac.org (left side “confession of faith”)

CHAP. XV. - Of Repentance unto Life.

2. *By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of His mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God, purposing and endeavouring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.*

5. *Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavour to repent of his particular sins, particularly.*

CHAP. XIV. - Of Saving Faith.

1. *The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word, by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.*

Evangelism

Practical Question: So if you are saying the only way to heaven is through Jesus, then what about the person in the jungle who has never had the chance to hear about Jesus?

This objection is based on the idea that people are innocent. If not that, then it is unfair for someone to be guilty of something they have not heard about. Romans 1:18-21 tells us they are without excuse simply because of God's glory revealed in creation and their suppression of righteousness.

- 1) God promised that the gospel would go to the nations (to all people groups).
- 2) If someone is seeking God but has not heard then God will make sure they know.

Examples? Cornelius and Peter (Acts 10). Paul going to Corinth b/c Spirit says he has many people in that city (Acts 18:10).

14.2. By this faith, a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word, for the authority of God Himself speaking therein; and acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come. But the principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

Principal acts of saving faith are:

Knowledge – apprehension of things which are necessary for salvation.

Agreement – conviction that the knowledge of salvation is actually true. Persuasion of the truth.

Trust – applying the promises of the gospel to oneself. Personal trust.