

Is It True Faith?

One problem that I see in this issue is the specter of contrivance. Satan's deceptiveness is so cleverly disguised, that a vain, weak or false faith on the part of a newcomer may be mistaken for a saving faith. Thus, the great paradox; is the faith one has a false faith masquerading as saving faith through Satan's extremely clever and supernatural devices, or is it a false faith from fear of hell, having no substance in the heart; or is it true saving faith being undermined with equal cleverness by Satan through the instruments of doubt and delusion? How can one know? Certainly searching within the mind is not enough because that is the very forum wherein both the natural man and Satan perform their most insidious work. Furthermore, how reliable is the feeling of the heart in this matter? How effective can Satan be in this realm? I don't know. Perhaps the very articulation of this attempt to understand is itself the work of Satan at his best, casting doubt and confusion. However, can the matter be set aside or dismissed on this basis without risks that the heartfelt faith is in fact a most cleverly construed counterfeit? The only solution to this dilemma that I see is prayer time. Prayer for guidance, walking the Christian walk as faithfully as possible, and always examining it critically along the way. Through God's grace, the truth may be revealed. Or could it be that this cross of doubt and uncertainty is precisely what the Lord intended that one carry until that precious goal of a saving faith, does in fact manifest through one's unrelenting walking the walk that carries this very burden?

Perhaps this cross of uncertainty is necessary in order to keep us from growing complacent in our faith and lax in our attentiveness to our commitment to Him. I am a "late bloomer" as it pertains to having come to the belief that Jesus is God, and all that goes with that belief. Perhaps, with time, this concern will be reconciled for me personally. For others, I pray that my concern with the matter will either comfort or alert those who are yet seeking or who are also new to the faith.