

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE NATURE OF SAVING FAITH
Make Every Effort — Week 13

ICEBREAKER: What happens after death?

OVERVIEW: If you believe in Jesus — that He exists, and is the Son of God, and died and rose again as God’s only provision for sin, and that He is the Messiah — does that mean you are saved? Not necessarily. Even Satan and his demons believe all those things, and they hate Jesus. So what is saving faith? How can we make sure that our faith is the kind of faith that we need to inherit eternal life?

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. What does it mean to “test yourselves to see if you are in the faith”? Why is it important to make sure that your faith is saving faith?
3. Read Ephesians 2:8. Before seeking to understand the nature of saving faith, it is important to recognize the Biblical doctrine that salvation is by faith. What is salvation? What are some of the different aspects (or blessings) of salvation?
4. What is the difference between saving faith and mental assent?
5. What does it mean that saving faith has the right object?
6. What is repentance, and what is the connection between saving faith and repentance?

7. What is the difference between salvation by faith, and salvation by good works?
8. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is saving faith not boastful?
9. What is the difference between salvation by faith, and salvation by religious rituals?
10. What does it mean that saving faith is *relying* upon Christ for salvation?
11. Read Romans 3:25. What is it about Jesus Christ that one must rely upon to be saved?
12. Read Revelation 3:20. What does it mean that saving faith is a relationship with Jesus?

The Last Word: What is saving faith? Saving faith is relying on Jesus Christ alone for salvation.