



LAST WEEK...

The very
essence of sin
 is **to not live for**
 the glory of God.

The very
essence of sin is to
think, desire and **act**
 in a way that does not
 bring glory to God.

The essence of sin and wickedness: is when we set our highest affections on the things of little or no worth.

The essence of faith and righteousness therefore: is to be moved by delight in and enjoyment of that which is perfectly glorious!

Sin, at it's core, is
when we decide that
God is not **best**,
and does not know
what is **best**.

"Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God.

No one sins out of duty. We sin because it holds out some promise of happiness. That promise enslaves us until we believe God is more to be desired."

– John Piper, *Future Grace*

Faith

therefore is when we:
believe that God is **best**,
and **does** know
what is **best**.

Which is why...

"Whatever is not from faith is sin."

Romans 14:23

Let's combine those:
Whatever does not arise
from believing that God is
best and knows what is **best**
is sin.

Sin is the action that
arises when we
believe that the **world**
offers the superior
glory and pleasure.

Faith is the action that arises when we believe that God offers the superior glory and pleasure.

what is The Nature of BIBLICAL Faith?

The best definition may be:

full persuasion,
complete confidence
in a person or plan

"Faith". *pístis*

*persuade, be persuaded –
properly, persuasion
to be persuaded,
to come to trust; confidence.*

Hebrews II

*"Now faith is confidence
in what we hope for and
assurance about what
we do not see." (v1)*

Faith is utter confidence
in what we hope for, and
what we hope for is:

**what God has
promised to do**

1

Faith is
confidence in
what God has
promised to do.

Faith is the inner
assurance that the God
spoken realities of the
unseen world are really
real.

2

Faith is
the assurance
of the unseen
reality around
us.

***“By faith we understand
that the universe was
formed at God’s command,
so that what is seen was not
made out of what was
visible.” (v3)***

***“Without faith it is impossible
to please God, because anyone
who comes to him **must believe**
that he exists and that he
rewards those who earnestly
seek him.” (v6)***

3

Faith is **the**
understanding
of the existence
& preeminence
of God as Ruler
& Creator.

4

Faith is
the belief
that God offers
great rewards
for those who
seek Him.

*“By faith Abraham, when
God tested him, offered
Isaac as a sacrifice. He who
had **embraced the promises**
was about to sacrifice his
one and only son.” (v17)*

5

Faith is
the clinging
to the spoken
word
(promises)
of God.

*By faith Moses...chose to be
mistreated along with the
people of God rather than to
enjoy the fleeting pleasures
of sin. (v24-26)*

*He **regarded disgrace** for the
sake of Christ **as of greater
value** than the treasures of
Egypt, because **he was looking
ahead to his reward.**(v24-26)*

6

Faith is **considering** what God offers to be of much more **value** than **anything** else.

"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised..." (v13)

*"...they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, **admitting that they were foreigners** and strangers on earth." (v13)*

7

Faith is **looking forward** to realities, glories, pleasures and joys...far beyond what this **world** can give.

In Summary:
BIBLICAL
Faith IS

A **deep confidence** and an **assuring hope** of **future good things...**
(namely the enjoyment of himself)

...which **God has promised to provide** to those who believe...

...which are **far beyond comparison** of anything that the world system, Satan and man's imagination can devise.

Remember last week...

We can clearly see that sin therefore is a **lack** of confidence in God to provide ultimate good, happiness and rewards in the future unseen world.

Sin is the lack of confidence in the **design** and **instruction** of God to provide good reward/personal benefit.

Remember last week...

Sin therefore is the pursuit of attempting to provide this good, happiness and reward for oneself **outside** of God.

Faith therefore **is the confidence in** the design and instruction of God to provide good reward/personal benefit.

‘Faith’ means being satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus.

‘Obedience’ then is **what we do** or **what our lives look like** when we are satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus.

OBEDIENCE

Faith made visible.

Next Week