



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)



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



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)



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