**The FIVE SOLAS – Sola Fide - Faith alone**

**Our natural inclination is to save ourselves. I.e. extreme conditions when one strives to stay alive. But what if you fall out of a plane – what can you do to save yourself? Flap your arms. We can try – pointless.**

**This impulse to save ourselves is at the heart of every religion in the world except the Gospel of Jesus – It is counterintuitive to everything a person feels. What if it’s not enough?**

**The Apostle Paul spent years of travail planting churches in Galatia. He heard a group was following him and preaching a diff Gospel.**

**Jesus + rules and customs = salvation.**

**Furious with concern that many believed the lie, he writes a letter to the churches of Galatia. He addresses the heretics and the core issue – we are saved by faith alone in Jesus.**

**Galatians 3:1** **O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. 2Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? 3Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— 6just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?**

**7Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justifythe Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**

**10For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” 11Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” 12But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” 13Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— 14so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**

**Sola (Latin only) The Five Solas: 5 Core Truths - Five basic principles**

1. **Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) – The authority**
2. **Solus Christus (Christ alone) - The mediator**
3. **Sola Gratia (Grace alone) – The means**
4. **Sola Fide (Faith alone) – The activation**
5. **Soli Deo Gloria (God’s glory alone) – The goal**

**Today Sola Fide (Faith Alone) - This is a misunderstood sola. It launched the Protestant Reformation and started it all.**

**In 1517, Martin Luther, in an effort to find some understanding in the turmoil of his soul went on the pilgrimage to Rome. While there, he visited monasteries, observed relics, and the practice of indulgences sold to build churches.**

**Deeply conflicted, he turned to scripture. Reading Galatians, he was prompted him to write the 95 theses and nailed to the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. The purpose was for local conversation and debate, but within 3 years, it became a war. This was the material cause of the Reformation: justification by faith alone in Christ alone. Martin Luther said faith alone is - “the article by which the church stands or falls.”**

**Catholics teach if a person cooperates with grace, one can be sanctified through sacraments - (video)**

**To this day for Catholics, salvation is by faith – but not faith alone. It is necessary but not sufficient. Unfortunately, this has also seeped back into mainstream Protestant churches.**

**Nearly every OT book and every NT letter deals with this issue. Faith.**

**What is it, and what role do I play – if any? Let’s define it.**

**\*\*\* Sola Fide (Faith Alone) – Salvation is granted to those who by faith place their trust in the perfect person and work of Jesus Christ.**

**How does one receive redemption? We are declared righteous before God by faith alone in Jesus Christ.**

**Not ourselves, abilities, work, attendance, giving, rituals, or actions. Unless it’s faith alone in the one true God of the Bible as revealed in Jesus Christ, one is chasing one's own tail.**

**Faith is intimately tied to God’s grace – distinctly bound to repentance - and uniquely related to the doctrine of justification**

**The Power of Faith**

**In Gal 3 - Paul uses faith in five ways in this brief passage. In faith, with faith, through faith, of faith, and by faith… they are interchangeable.**

**1. In faith**

**6just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?**

**Our faith is to be in the LORD God of Abraham thru Jesus.**

**The world's faith vs. the Lord’s faith. In a natural sense, every human walks by faith. When you drive down the street, go to work, put money in a bank, drive over a bridge, or have a friendship, you can’t live without it. But faith in the Lord is different.**

**Biblical Faith = A trust, belief, and dependence on God and his Word even when you don’t see it with your physical eyes.**

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith (in God) is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

**The power of faith is not in the action – but in the object of the action.**

**Faith is not a force or a law of nature or a spiritual law.**

**Faith is not positive vibes and good thoughts and hopeful thinking.**

**It is not faith in Allah, Brahma, or the LDS Heavenly Father. It is not faith in science, counselor, job opportunity, stock market, trends, intellect, your health, or politicians - but Faith in the LORD God.**

**The Muslim puts faith in the impersonal Allah and Mohammed**

**The Buddhist puts faith in self-denial and meditation**

**The Hinduist put faith in graven idols and offerings**

**The Humanist puts faith in himself and others**

**The Materialist puts faith in his wealth and position**

**The Naturalist puts his faith in science and knowledge**

**The Religious man puts faith in his works and rituals**

**The Christian puts faith in Christ alone as one in relationship.**

**2. With faith – it begins with hearing with Faith**

**“2Did you receive the Spirit (salvation) by works of the law or by hearing with faith?” / 5 “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith” (Believing as you hear)**

**We can be in this room and walk away with different hearing.**

**Jesus often said – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**

**For some, they listen – but do not hear. What is the difference?**

**The work of the Holy Spirit opens blind eyes, deaf ears, and rebellious, hard hearts. Only by the HS, one hears with faith.**

**Do you have ears to hear today? Or are you just here?**

**3. Through faith – salvation is found through faith alone.**

**14 …so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. 6just as Abraham “believed God, (faith) and it was counted to him as righteousness”?**

**\*\*\* Faith is a gift - God gives/ enables faith**

**Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved! / 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

**Both grace and faith are a gift from God. 2 Pet 1:1, Phi 1:29. Acts 3:16**

**Consider 2 people who hear the gospel but only 1 responds positively. No Christian would say that the one who chose Jesus was more righteous than the other - if both are equally able to make the right choice, logical consistency means that the one was saved because he did something better than and good in his decision-making.**

**But if we are dead in sin and unable to seek God independently (last wk), faith must be a gift and not something we initiate. (Ep 2:8)**

**\*\*\* Faith is the vehicle - instrument by which God pours out his grace.**

**Christ died on the cross for the sins of the world – but only those who have faith in it will have redemption.**

**If you ask, "Did Jesus pay a ransom for everybody in the world, and did he give himself as a substitute for everybody in the world?"**

**The biblical answer is this: the death of Christ is of infinite worth and has in it enough grace to save every person who ever lived.**

**It is all-sufficient in its saving value. But it only saves those who respond to the gospel offer – by faith. There is not a single person by which the blood of Jesus cannot cover their debt of sin.**

**It is sufficient for all, but it is only effective for some – by faith.**

**Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe (faith) in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."**

**One must understand and believe (faith in Jesus) to be saved. All are invited to come, but only those who have eyes to see and ears to hear will come. And what is it that causes one to see and to hear the gospel? The grace of God.**

**John 1:12, "To as many as received him, (faith in Jesus) to them gave he power to become the sons of God." / Act 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, (faith) and you will be saved…**

**Think of it like this – take a breath. How did you do that? Air.**

**With the absence of air and what happens. If we can’t breathe in and suffocate. Without air – we cannot inhale or exhale. Oxygen is a prerequisite for breathing.**

**Resuscitation is like salvation.**

**Grace - is like the air God provides moving air into our dead lungs.**

**Faith - is our responding exhale - we breathe out.**

**Faith is breathing the air that God’s Grace gives and supplies.**

**Faith is not like a drowning man thrown a life preserver, who must just reach out and grab it. The truth is we don’t see it, don’t want it, and don’t think we need it. We are already a dead, lifeless corpses on the bottom of the sea. A corpse doesn’t negotiate or cooperate with God, we are dead.**

**But Christ (in grace & mercy) left the throne of heaven to dive into the depths of our depravity and rescues our dead life and breathes life into it.**

**1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.**

**Our response to the gospel of Jesus is faith powered by the HS. It is not something we can do apart from the HS. We don’t have the power or ability. (last week – we cannot do it – Rom 3:10-12, 8:7-8)**

1. **Of faith – true believers are of faith**

**7 “Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.” / 9So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**

**Most of the NT is a warning of false teachers concerning faith.**

**A warning of those who are smuggling works into salvation.**

**Galatians 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently, some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! (anathema, under divine judgment, cursed.) 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse! (ana..)**

**No matter who it is – if another apostle, a pastor, a priest, a pope, or any other person or a spiritual being.**

**Religion is based on works and attempts to keep it, but the true gospel is by faith alone. We either hold to self-righteousness or self-sufficiency in Jesus by faith.**

**\*\* Baptism is a reflection of our faith - not salvation. - Galatians 3:26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

**5. By faith - (Gal 2:16) – we walk by faith**

**Gal 3:11…for “The righteous shall live by faith.”**

**2 Co 5:7 …for we walk by faith, not by sight.**

**Faith is – Belief and trust that results in obedience.**

**James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. / 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (\*\*Justified before men)**

**This is not a contradiction. 100s of passages that say we are saved by faith. What is this? Abraham is v20-23 - his faith was in action.**

**James counters the notion that faith equals sloppy salvation. Counterfeit faith has no life response. If there is no outward evidence of faith – it is not genuine faith. (Antinomianism)**

**\*\* Good works are not a means of our faith but the fruits of our faith.**

**Works are the evidence of our faith in Jesus. If you claim to have faith in Jesus - your life, words, and actions will reflect it.**

**Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

**We are challenged many times to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received (Eph 4:1, Rom 12:1, Phi 1:27)**

**But you might feel discouraged with your faith. Good News - Our faith given by God can increase (Mark 9:21-25, Matt 17:20, 2 Thes 1:3, Ro 1:17, Jam 1:3, Heb 12:2)**

**Jesus is the founder of our faith and the perfecter of our faith**

**Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Increasing Faith: (God uses these things to increase/build our faith)**

**\* Immerse yourself in the word of God - 1 Pet 2:2, Rom 10:17**

**Rom 10:17- Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**

**Understanding, the will of God - our faith grows.**

**\* Cultivate an active prayer life - Jud 1:20-21, Jam 4:8, Phil 4:6-7, 2 Tim 1:6-7, 1 John 5:14**

**As we pray as one in relationship with Christ, faith is stirred.**

**\*\* Embrace seasons of challenge and hardship - Col 2:6-7, 1 Peter 1:7**

**Trials proves (like a refining fire) the genuineness of our faith**

**\*\* Step out and trust God’s promises - 2 Cor. 1:20; Jas. 1:22**

**Step out in obedience to God’s will/walking in faith**

**At home / at work / in ministry – stretching out faith = growing.**

**Paul gives a unique and dynamic comparison in that passage:**

**Gal 3:10For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”**

**If we can’t do them all – we fail. Whether it is one time or millions of times. All have fallen short (Rom 3:23)**

**God’s righteous standard is perfection (Matt 5:48) But it is impossible for one to be perfect all the time. We all have failed. (Rom 3:23) Our best efforts fall short – like trying to empty an ocean of sin with a bucket. It is impossible.**

**Therefore, we are Cursed - under eternal judgment before God.**

**All the laws of God can do is reveal the character and holiness of God. And our deficiency and inability to live them.**

**BUT Paul mirrors – Gal 3:13Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree - 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**

**Either you will be cursed, or you will have faith in the one who was cursed. Either you stand before God in your sin, or you stand before the cross of Jesus the forgiver of sin.**

**1 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**The great exchange – through faith.**