

God's Two Favorite Salvation Words

[see also APP # D "Salvation by Faith Alone"]

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It is to be noted that in 3 crucial books [John, Acts, and Romans], the 3 authors use different words to capture the central element of salvation. John, "believe" Luke, "faith" Paul, "faith"

Luke uses believe, repent, and faith [in Acts]

John uses only believe, but never repent or faith

Paul primarily uses faith

	Belief	Faith	Repentance
	πιστευο	πιστις	μετανεο
Acts	5	12	5
John	98	0	0
Paul	65	138	9
Total	169	150	14

Conclusion: God's two favorite words to express salvation are BELIEF & FAITH.

n.b. It is to be noted that the word repentance is used as an equivalent term for salvation in Acts 20.20,21
See explanation of Two Types of Repentance: for saved—for unsaved APP # J

In the **Synoptic Gospels**, salvation is not the pulsating theme to the degree it is in John.

- the term "faith" is used a total of 19 times
- "repentance" and "trust" are each mentioned 7 times
- "believe" is only used 34 times total in all 3 Synoptics
- not all usages of "saved" are about eternal life

* The Synoptics have holy living as their primary focus. Jesus demands whole-hearted commitment, a radical

change in life-style, unwavering allegiance to Himself and self-denial for all believers.

* Forty of the passages under discussion in this Yes, we are debate come from the Synoptic Gospels.

- There seems to be a difference in the approach of the AFFIRMATIVE and NEGATIVE positions. They each view the other with a scant eye supposing that to adhere to their opponents' belief system will deny certain precepts of Scripture.

The Negative side FEELS:

- that the Affirmative position is adding works to salvation, thus disregarding salvation by faith in Jesus' death payment.
- that to require anything more than faith is heresy and no different than Romism.
- that the lifetime of commitment eclipses the crucial item of kneeling at the foot of the Cross passing from death into life.
- the Affirmative is fearful that adhering to eternal security will lead to willful sin.
- The Negative denies that all of the above allegations are valid.

The Affirmative side FEELS:

- that the Negative position is saying that only thing necessary for salvation is a head knowledge of the facts of salvation.
- that "faith alone" denies the mandate of commitment
- that "faith alone" denies the requirement of repentance.
- that "faith alone" denies a hatred for one's past sins, seeing them as Christ sees them.
- that "faith alone" will make it easier for a professing Christian to slip back into sin.

n.b.

Mostly God says, "believe."

In the Gospel of John, 80x [out of 98x] "believe" refers to eternal life. Other times it refers to believing in His miracles, or His Messiahship, or something else.