

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

February 2018

Dear friends,

## Faith Comes From God

Then said they unto him, What shall we do,  
that we might Work the works of God?

Jesus answered and said unto them,

This is the work of God, that ye

Believe on him whom he hath sent.

John 6: 28&29

The entire Bible agrees on what it means to serve God. Scripture firmly establishes that if we want to serve him, we must believe in the one whom the Father has sent. If we want to know how to receive God's grace, how to approach him, how to satisfy the penalty for our sins, how to receive forgiveness of sin and escape death, then we must do what God wants and believe in Christ. Here Christ is plainly telling us what we should do—believe.

Faith is the work we must do. Yet faith is also called God's work. Later, Christ tells us how we are able to believe, for no one can believe on his or her own. **“ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” John 6:44** He also says, **“ Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of the father.” John 6:65.** For faith is a divine work that God asks us to do. But at the same time, God must give us faith, for we can't believe on our own.

What an excellence passage this is! Like a lightning bolt, it strikes down all wisdom and righteousness, every law and commandment, even the law of Moses, It lays before us a different work-- a work that is above and beyond us. We cannot grasp Christ with our thoughts or our reason. Therefore, faith cannot be our own work. We are drawn to Christ, even though we can neither feel him or see him.

(This is from Martin Luther Daily devotions Faith Alone, January 29th reading)

We can see from this reading and scripture verses that the greatest work we can do is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, also we see that we cannot do that on our own it is a gift from God that we might be able to believe that our sins are forgiven and we can have total faith in the work done on the cross by God's Son was enough satisfy Him for the past, present, and future work that God requires to be his child. Therefore we should be careful to not just be hearers of the word, but to be doers of it, not to satisfy Gods demands, but because his demand are already met we sever out of graduated and love of God and our neighbors. **"But be you doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."** James 1:22 Oh Lord help us that we would be willing servants to you and all those around us.

**Now may the God of hope fill with all joy and peace in believing you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Romans 15:13**

Love and God's peace,  
Ken Matson