

## CatClub: Question 35



**1. Recap.** Last week we learnt that, although we aren't saved on the basis of anything we can do (=good works/deeds), we are still to strive to obey God's commandments and please him in our lives. We are enabled to do this because, when we believe, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us and helps us to do what otherwise would be impossible for us.

**Q35 now asks:** Since we are redeemed by grace alone (=by God's mercy which we don't deserve), through faith alone (=not by anything we can do, but just by trusting Jesus), where does this faith come from? **Answer:** **All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.**

**The issue here is this:** When we put our faith in Jesus, it feels to us as though we have done something, i.e. **that we have decided to believe.** However, today's answer tells us that, just as it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to obey God and live a life pleasing to him, **so it is the Holy Spirit who also gives us the gift of faith in the first place.**

### 2. Investigation

Please look up:

a) (In the New Testament) 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 9(a). This verse confirms that **faith (=trust, belief) is a gift from God the Holy Spirit**, the third person of the Trinity. It is not something that we are able to do for ourselves – **we have to be enabled by the Holy Spirit to put our faith in Jesus.**

b) (In the New Testament) Ephesians chapter 2, verses 8-10. These verses make it clear that **faith is a gift from God** - specifically, as we saw in (a), from God the Holy Spirit. As faith is a gift, **it is not something we can boast about**, because it does not come from us.

c) (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 10, verse 17. Here we understand that **the way faith comes to us is through hearing the Word of Christ**, which means by hearing the message about the gospel (=good news) of salvation in Jesus Christ. This good news is, of course, the central message of the whole Bible. So what happens is that, **when we hear this message, it is the Holy Spirit who applies it to our hearts and minds, thus giving us the ability to believe it and put our faith in Jesus.**

To sum up: Faith is given to us by God the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we would not be able to believe.

>>>Next week's question: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

This weeks' songs: 'The gift of faith':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ARPTqcX28>

'Spirit of the Living God':

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0\\_B0DpTbUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0_B0DpTbUI)

## **1 Corinthians 12:9(a)**

**<sup>9</sup> to another (person) faith (is given) by the same Spirit...**

## **Ephesians 2:8-10**

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

**<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

## **Romans 10:17**

**<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**