



THE COMPASS

A TOOL FOR DISCIPLERS

Frozen Lake

If you are sharing your faith on a regular basis, you will encounter the person who is somewhat ready to make a decision but has a question related to the amount of faith required. I say “somewhat ready” because the basis of this question can be legitimate but it can also flow from a person’s desire to avoid making a commitment.

I was driving behind a car, that by the looks of it was owned by the president of the National Rifle Association - decals of deer within bulls eyes, insured by Smith and Wesson, etc. On the back was a military bumper sticker reading with the heinous, but rather amusing, saying, “Kill them all, let God sort them out.” In the end we don’t know a person’s motives, God will have to sort that out, our job is to answer, to the best of our ability, the questions.

The question here, specifically, is, “But what if I don’t have enough faith.” They have understood the issue that eternal life is not attained through good works, that it is accomplished by Christ, and that we must receive this gift by faith, ergo the question, “What if I don’t have enough faith.” To which I respond with this analogy:

It’s winter and you live in the arctic, or worse Minnesota. Before you is a glorious lake frozen over. It’s been 20 below zero and there isn’t a doubt in your mind that the ice will hold you. So, you go running down the dock and jump out onto the ice. You, however, were wrong. You had a ton of faith but the object of your faith, it turns out, was a 1/8 inch film of ice on the pond.

A week goes by, your pneumonia has cleared up and once again you are looking out on a frozen lake. But it’s been warm and your socks are still wet from your last miscalculation, so with great fear, timidity and very little faith you inch your way out onto the ice. It holds you. It turns out the ice is two feet thick. This time you had only a tiny bit of faith but the object of your faith was trustworthy; it was two feet thick.

The issue is really not the amount of faith, it is the object of our faith (which is Christ) and whether we are willing to take whatever amount of faith we have and place it in Him. Even filled with doubt, you can step out on the ice.



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