

# How Can I Live by Faith?

Crucial Questions

R. C. SPROUL

**How Can I Live by Faith?**

Crucial Questions booklets provide a quick introduction to definitive Christian truths. This expanding collection includes titles such as:

Who Is Jesus?

Can I Trust the Bible?

Does Prayer Change Things?

Can I Know God's Will?

How Should I Live in This World?

What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

Can I Be Sure I'm Saved?

What Is Faith?

What Can I Do with My Guilt?

What Is the Trinity?

TO BROWSE THE REST OF THE SERIES,  
PLEASE VISIT: [LIGONIER.ORG/CQ](http://LIGONIER.ORG/CQ)

CQ

# How Can I Live by Faith?

R. C. SPROUL



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

*How Can I Live by Faith?*

© 2020 by R.C. Sproul

Published by Ligonier Ministries  
421 Ligonier Court, Sanford, FL 32771  
Ligonier.org

Printed in China  
Amity Printing Company  
0000324

First edition, second printing

ISBN 978-1-64289-237-6 (Paperback)

ISBN 978-1-64289-238-3 (ePub)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, Ligonier Ministries. The only exception is brief quotations in published reviews.

Cover design: Ligonier Creative  
Interior typeset: Katherine Lloyd, The DESK

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Library of Congress has cataloged the Reformation Trust edition as follows:

Names: Sproul, R. C. (Robert Charles), 1939-2017, author.

Title: How can I live by faith? / R.C. Sproul.

Description: Orlando, FL : Reformation Trust Publishing, a division of Ligonier Ministries, 2020. | Series: Crucial questions; 35

Identifiers: LCCN 2019033744 (print) | LCCN 2019033745 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781642892376 (paperback) | ISBN 9781642892383 (epub) |

ISBN 9781642892390 (kindle edition)

Subjects: LCSH: Faith and reason--Christianity. | Faith. | Justification (Christian theology)

Classification: LCC BT50 .S67 2020 (print) | LCC BT50 (ebook) | DDC 234/.23--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019033744>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019033745>

## Contents

<b>One</b>	The Faithful God. . . . .	1
<b>Two</b>	Redeemed by Faith. . . . .	13
<b>Three</b>	Dying in Faith. . . . .	33
<b>Four</b>	Living by Faith . . . . .	51
<b>Five</b>	Being Faithful. . . . .	59



## Chapter One

# The Faithful God

**T**he Christian faith is a reasonable faith. When we speak of “the Christian faith,” in one sense, we mean the body of teachings that has been passed down by the prophets and Apostles and set authoritatively in sacred Scripture (Jude 3). But we also mean the center of a life based on that body of teaching, for at the center of the Christian life is faith. The essential meaning of faith is trust. To believe is to trust something or someone. This means that our personal reliance, what we hold on to, what



## How Can I Live by Faith?

we base our life on, is based on trusting something. Trust in God, faith in Christ alone for salvation, is at the center of the Christian religion, and it is a key part of the Christian life to learn how to live out that trust in a life of faith.

Since the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century, faith as a virtue has come under assault. The guns of intellectual criticism have been trained on our faith as the self-anointed intellectuals have positioned faith as utterly opposed to rationality, as inherently irrational. As a result, many Christians have retreated from the arena of debate. Not only that, they've gone further and concluded that rationality and reason are tools of Satan that contradict the truth of Christ.

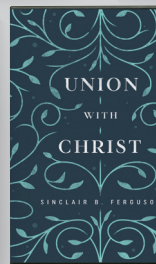
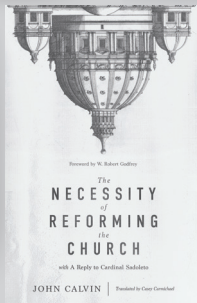
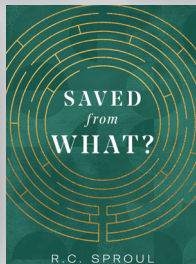
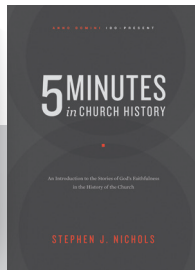
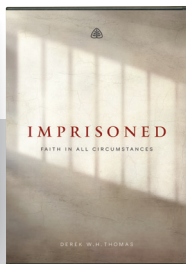
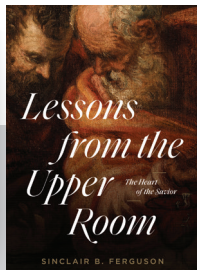
The pernicious influence of Enlightenment-era rationality has even worked its way into the church. The theological liberalism of the nineteenth century brought an assault against the basic foundational views of the Christian faith. This theological movement progressed into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to basic unbelief and has taken hold of many church institutions. Some Christian parents have even found that upon sending their children off to ostensibly Christian colleges and universities, their children come back filled with doubts and

skepticism propagated by the very professors the church had entrusted to teach and explain the faith.

In our day, thanks to the influence of the Enlightenment and the attacks of theological liberalism, many people see a sharp divorce between faith and reason. In fact, we are living in the most anti-intellectual period in the history of the Christian church. What noted biblical archaeologist William Foxwell Albright called “a baleful influence of existential philosophy” has permeated not only secular culture but also Christian culture so much that we have now become suspicious of reason. As a result, many people today believe that rationality and intellect have little to do with religion or faith. Some feel uncomfortable even talking about categories of logic because they have been steeped in the idea that Christianity is to be embraced by faith and not by reason.

The reaction against this tendency was to move away from intellectualism under the dual false assumptions that intellectualism leads to unbelief and that Christians must live by faith and not by reason. As a result, the concept of faith that has emerged is often prefaced by the word *blind*. How many times have you heard people say that we must accept something by faith? Perhaps you’ve said something

We want to see men and women  
around the world connect the deep truths  
of the Christian faith to everyday life.



Order your copy of this title, download the digital version,  
or browse thousands of resources at **Ligonier.org**.



LIGONIER MINISTRIES