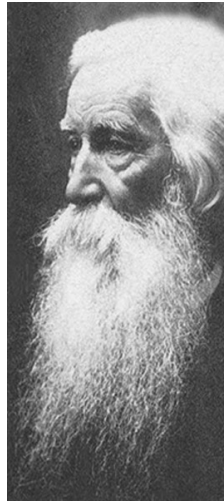


What Does It Mean To Believe?

Romans 10:8-17

John G. Paton served the Lord for thirty years seeking to reach South Sea cannibals with the Good News of Christ. One of his tasks was to translate the Bible into their language. One of his greatest difficulties was trying to find the equivalent for the word "faith." His discovery of the right term is fascinating:



"One day I was in the mission house anxiously pondering. I sat on an ordinary kitchen chair, my feet resting on the floor. An intelligent native woman entered the room, and the thought flashed through my mind to ask the all-absorbing question once again, in a new light. Was I not resting on the chair? Would that attitude lend itself to the discovery? I said, 'What am I doing now?' 'Koikai ana, Misi. [You're sitting down, Missi.]' Then I drew up my feet and placed them on the rung of the chair. Leaning back in an attitude of repose, I asked, 'What am I doing now?'



'Fakarongrongo, Misi. [You are leaning wholly, Missi. You have lifted yourself from every other support.]' 'That's it!' I shouted exultantly. A sense of holy joy awed me as I realized that my prayer had been answered. To lean on Jesus wholly and only is surely the true meaning of saving faith. And now '*Fakarongrongo Jesu ea anea mouri* [leaning on Jesus unto eternal life]' is the happy experience of all who cast themselves unreservedly on the Saviour of the world for salvation."

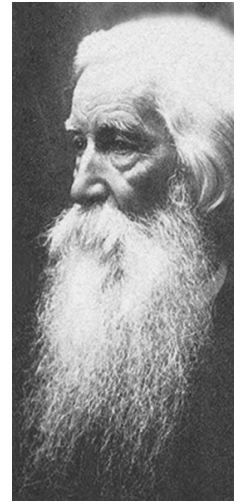
May we lean fully upon Him, resting all of our weight on the **Person** [who He is] and **Work** [what He has done] and **Word** [what He has said] of Jesus Christ. He can save to the uttermost all those who cast themselves upon Him and upon Him alone! "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life" (John 6:47).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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