

FAITH ABOUT VS. FAITH IN CHRIST

ABOUT versus IN Is there a difference?

Perhaps consideration of dictionary definitions will prove helpful.

Note from the dictionary that definitions of ABOUT have an ambiguity to them. Legally the word is equivalent to “more or less”, but the variation legally permissible varies with what appears as reasonable in the contemplation of the parties under the circumstances. The general definition is “concerning, with regard to, on account of, touching.”

In contrast dictionary definitions of the word IN are specific in character. Primarily IN denotes situation or position with respect to a surrounding, encompassment, or enclosure, denoted by the governed word. It indicates location, or direction, or relation to a whole. It indicates situation, nature, or state. Importantly, it indicates that to which an action is limited - see John 3:16. My dictionary also states IN was formerly used (and still is used) where “on” is now preferred - see Acts 16:31.

Many people know ABOUT the excellent statistics of air travel, yet will not trust IN air travel to the extent of committing their being to the same. Therefore, faith about air travel cannot become operative for them, as can faith in air travel become operative for those who believe or trust and commit themselves to the same.

Faith about Christ is non-operative, until accomplished by faith in/on Christ.

Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Bible, gathering into itself all the redemptive acts and processes. BORN AGAIN (new birth) is a Greek word, which in English is also translated as “regeneration.” Therefore, being “born again” or “regenerated” (Titus 3:5 and 6) is a creative act of God the Holy Spirit (John 3:6 thru 8), within one who believes. Although we may not have great understanding, we can trust and know thru believing faith. (See Eph. 2:8 and 9).

Like the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:25-34), one may be saved on the basis of very simple knowledge. But faith and belief in/on the person and work of Christ on Calvary are essential. Read Romans 10:9,10 which indicates believing involves assent of the mind and the heart.