

## THREE LIFE CHANGING POSSESSIONS (Pt. 2)

### I. What faith is not.

- A. Faith is not some mystical feeling.
  - 1. We have faith that Paris exists even though we haven't been there.
  - 2. I've never been to NYC, but those I trust have and thus I have faith it exists.
  - 3. We take the word of those who have implicit knowledge and call it faith.
  - 4. Inspired men wrote the Bible.
    - a. These men had implicit knowledge of the events and doctrines about which they wrote.
    - b. They were either present or studied the event and all were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the words of the Bible.
  - 5. When we say we have faith in God's word, we should be saying that based on the evidence of scripture we believe in God, His Son and the teachings of the Bible.
- B. Faith is not something that can save us by itself.
  - 1. There is a great deal of teaching in the religious world that all one has to do is have faith in God, by which they mean belief, and they will be saved.
  - 2. Martin Luther, the great reformationist, wrote a great deal about this.
  - 3. I found this idea stated this way in a recent article, "The phrase "You are saved by faith alone" is obviously true. Scripture repeatedly tells us that it is faith alone without works which saves (e.g., Eph. 2:8-9)."
  - 4. People teach that all you have to do is believe and nothing else and you will be saved.
  - 5. The Bible does not teach this however.
    - a. Notice James 2:14ff.
    - b. The only time the Bible uses the phrase "faith only" is to show us that a man is not justified by it (2:24).
  - 6. Nowhere are we told that just believing in Jesus as the Son of God and doing nothing else will save us.
  - 7. Yes Jesus did say that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).
    - a. But look what He said in verses 19-21 in that same conversation.
    - b. There is a distinction made between those that do evil and those that do truth.
    - c. Notice that truth must be done and he will be judged by his deeds, or works or actions (vs. 21).
  - 8. James tells us that faith without works is dead being alone.
  - 9. Incidentally, the quotation earlier about being saved by faith alone used Ephesians 2:8-9 as a reference.

- a. It says... "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
  - b. This verses teaches that it is grace and faith that saves us, not faith only.
- C. Faith is not something that cannot be lost.
  - 1. There are those that teach once you have faith you can't lose it.
  - 2. This is not what Paul told the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 13:5).
  - 3. 2 Corinthians was written to Christians (1:1).
  - 4. You and I can lose our faith if we allow ourselves to get away from the source of faith (Romans 10:17).

## II. What faith is.

- A. Faith is something based on God's word (Romans 10:17).
  - 1. God's word is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
  - 2. Because it is inspired by the almighty God, it is worthy of our trust.
  - 3. We are not putting our confidence in something that came from the mind of men.
  - 4. It is completely trustworthy and has shown itself to be such through the ages.
- B. Faith is something that causes us to be obedient.
  - 1. Hebrews 11 has been called the "Hall of Fame of Faith."
  - 2. When you read that chapter, you see that each person mentioned had faith.
    - a. It was not simple belief.
    - b. God told each of these people something to do.
    - c. Their faith caused them to act obediently to the commands of God.
      - (1) Abel's faith in God's word caused him to offer the right sacrifice.
      - (2) Enoch's faith allowed him to be translated because it caused him to please God.
      - (3) Noah's faith caused him to build the ark.
  - 3. Our faith leads to action.
    - a. God has given us commands to follow.
    - b. If we believe in God, we will be obedient to those commands.
  - 4. Biblical faith is a faith that acts, it is not stagnant.
  - 5. Notice Romans 5:1-2.
    - a. Our faith justifies us, a legal term that carries the idea of rendering a person righteous, before God.
    - b. This allows us to access God's grace.
  - 6. The faith that allows this justification is a faith that is active, as in the case of Abraham in Romans 4.
  - 7. If we have faith, we will obey God, not just simply believe in Him.
  - 8. Notice Romans 1:8.
  - 9. Now notice Romans 16:19.

- a. Their faith was spoken of all over the world: How?
  - b. People knew of their obedience is how.
  - c. Their faith was expressed in the obedience to God's commands.
- 10. Hebrews 5:8-9.
  - a. Jesus is not the author eternal salvation to those who simply believe in Him.
  - b. He does save those who obey Him and we obey because of our faith.
- C. Faith is something that needs to be increased (2 Corinthians 10:15).
  - 1. Faith can grow and it must grow.
  - 2. 1 Peter 2:2.
    - a. Again, God's word is the source of faith.
    - b. Peter tells us that we can grow when we get God's word.
    - c. Our faith will and must grow.

### III. Faith is necessary.

- A. Faith is necessary to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
  - 1. Without it, we can't be saved because we can't please God.
  - 2. Remember that we mentioned Enoch earlier.
  - 3. Enoch pleased God by his actions of faith.
- B. Faith is necessary to be victorious (1 John 5:4).
  - 1. We will overcome the world, the sinfulness of it, with faith.
  - 2. I don't know anyone who wants to lose.
  - 3. There is no more important event to win than that of life because it involves the eternal destiny of our souls.
  - 4. The only way to win the event of life is to have a faith in God that causes us to act.
- C. Faith is necessary to live eternally with God (Romans 1:17).
- D. Faith is necessary to be a child of God (Galatians 3:26).
- E. Faith is necessary to be saved (Ephesians 2:8).