

THE BASICS OF FAITH

INTRO

Faith is an attribute of God and is to be an active attribute of every Christian. It is not wrong to have a reputation for being a person of faith or one who believes God's Word, promises, and principles. The Apostle Paul commended the people of Rome and the people of Thessalonica for their faith Romans 1:8; 1Thessalonians 1:8. It was the quality of their life that stood out. Jesus Himself commended and noticed people for their faith Matthew 8:5-13. The entire chapter 11 of Hebrews identified and commends people who lived by faith. We need to get back to the basics of faith in God.

I. What is Faith?

- A. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," Hebrews 11:1.
 - 1. Faith is the substance (confidence, guarantee, assurance) of things hoped for.
 - 2. Faith is the evidence (proof, conviction, certainty, sign, and sure persuasion) of things not seen.
 - 3. Faith deals with something future.
 - 4. Faith deals with something you cannot physically see.

II. Who Has it?

- A. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith," Romans 12:3.
- B. Every Christian is given and dealt a measure of faith, has the spirit of faith, and has like precious faith the moment they get saved 2 Corinthians 4:13; 2 Peter 1:1.

III. How Faith Comes.

- A. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God," Romans 10:17.
- B. Faith comes by hearing God's Word.
- C. God's Word is the source of all the faith we will ever need.

IV. How is Faith Released -- in Words and Actions.

- A. Whosoever shall say Mark 11:22,23,24.
- B. Spirit of faith -- speaks 2 Corinthians 4:13.
- C. Faith calls things which are not as though they were Romans 4:17.
- D. We are to do or act on the Word James 1:22.
- E. Faith without actions is dead and lifeless as a corpse James 2:17,20,22.
- F. Had faith -- needed to act Acts 14:7-10.

V. How Faith Works.

- A. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love, " Galatians 5:6. Literally, "faith operating by love."
 - 1. Our walk of faith will never be greater than our walk of love.
 - 2. Not self-centered, self-serving life, but God-centered and other-centered.
 - 3. Both instances where Jesus said people had great faith, they had great faith for the benefit of another Matthew 8:10; 15:28.
 - 4. In many instances in Hebrews 11 where God commended people, it was God-centered and in obedience to advancing His will.
 - a. Faith does not work if the direction of your life is centered on self-interest and self-serving.
 - b. He never gave us faith to establish our covetousness, but rather to obey His will.