

FAITH: A WAY OF LIFE

INTRO

Through the centuries, since the decline of the Church in its dark ages, the Lord has been moving in the Church to counteract spiritual decline, creating spiritual momentum in the work of God with recovering spiritual truth. One such spiritual truth is faith in God through what some may call "The Faith Movement." Faith in God, though, is more than a movement -- it is a way of life.

I. Faith is a Way of Living Life as a Christian.

- Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.
- A. No less than four times we are told "The just shall live by faith," (2 Corinthians 5:7 "Walk by faith and not by sight," and Galatians 2:20 "I live by the faith of the Son of God").
- B. Live means "a way of life, a life style." Not just once in a while, but taking God at His Word day by day. Not on the basis of a crisis that throws us into trusting God -- like Jonah -- but on the basis of a commitment -- like Peter, who stepped out on the water by choice.

II. Faith is More Than a Movement.

- A. Faith always was, always is, and always will be important in pleasing God (Hebrews 11:6) and is not just a movement.
- B. Throughout Hebrews 11, one thing stands out: "By faith...by faith...by faith..."
 - 1. All the people named lived in various time periods of God's moving and dealing with man, and they were singled out in their day for their faith.
 - 2. They did not stand out and get commended because they were perfect or because they never made mistakes. Think of:
 - a. Abraham's failure.
 - b. Moses' failure.
 - c. Samson's failure.
 - d. David's failure.
- C. It was because they had faith and faith pleases God, so the last word written about their lives was "They pleased God."
- D. "But I have tried that faith stuff and it has not worked yet." The Bible tells us, "Cast not away your confidence," Hebrews 10:35.
- E. Think of their faith from the time they received God's Word till it was manifested:
 - 1. Abraham waited 25 years from promise to fulfillment Genesis 12:1-4 -- 75 years old; Genesis 21:5 -- 100 years old.
 - 2. Caleb waited 40 years Numbers 14:24; 27-35; Joshua 14:6-12.
 - 3. Noah waited 100 years Genesis 5:36; 6:9-22 -- 500 years old; Genesis 7:1-7 -- 600 years old.

III. Faith is For More Than Getting Saved.

- A. Faith does not end at salvation. There is faith for:
 - 1. Healing Acts 14:7-10.
 - 2. Protection Isaiah 54:17.
 - 3. Direction Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - 4. Wisdom James 1:5.
 - 5. Prayer 1 John 5:14-15.
 - 6. Enduring life's trials 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4.
- B. Some say the faith talked about in the Bible means the Christian faith as a religion like the Jewish faith, Islamic faith, Hindu faith, and in some places it does when you see it called "the faith;" but what about faith in the promises of God 2 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Romans 4:12-23.
- C. God's never had a plan that did not work, and He plans for His children to "live" by faith.