

WHERE FAITH IS FOUND

Luke 18:8

By Henry T. Mahan

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**Henry Mahan T. Tape Library
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501**

Now, last week I brought you a message on “The Peace With God.” (We have peace with God). A message of comfort, assurance and confidence, and I hope that you were blessed by it. Today, I want to bring us a message; we need messages like this, a message that calls on us to examine ourselves, whether we are in the faith. As Peter said, *“Give diligence brethren; give diligence and great care to make your calling and election sure. For, if you do these things, you will never fail.”* Believers don’t mind examining the scriptures and the promises of God and determining whether or not they are in the faith. In fact, we are told to do that every time we come to the Lord’s Table. It says, *“Let a man examine himself and so let him eat.”* What is he examining himself for, to find out if he’s holy enough? No, if he’s worthy? No! He’s examining himself to determine if he actually discerns the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Is he really trusting Christ? Does he really believe on Christ? Is he really looking to the Saviour?

That’s what we are talking about. My subject today is this: **WHERE FAITH IS FOUND.** In **Luke 18: 8**, the scripture says this, *“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, (the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, Who is the Son of man, when he comes), will he find faith on this earth?”* When He comes, will He find faith on this earth?

One day, a troubled father, a troubled, heart-broken father, brought his desperately ill son to the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is what he said, this son had been critically ill, and desperately ill, for a long, long time, and this brokenhearted, troubled father, brought this young lad to the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is what he said, *“I brought my son to your disciples and they couldn’t help him.”* They could not do anything for him; they couldn’t help him. Then he said this to the master, but, if you can do anything, (I brought him to your disciples and they could do nothing), *“But if you can do something, have compassion on us and help us.”* The Lord answered in this fashion, *“If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”*

My friend, the question and the issue is not what He can do, that’s not the issue, what He can do, this father said, “If you can do anything, have compassion.” The Lord said, *“If you can believe all things are possible to them who believe. He is able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him.”* He’s able to perform all that He promised. That was the

basis of Abraham's faith. He said, "*He believed God.*" He didn't doubt; he believed God, not doubting, he believed God was able to do what He promised. (He can)! "*He's able to keep you from falling. He's able to present you faultless before His throne, with exceeding glory. He's able to raise your vile body and make it like His own.*" The issue is not what He can do; the question is, (can you believe)?

This is what our Lord said to this man, "Can you believe?" If you can believe, "*All things are possible to them that believe.*" Do you know what the father replied? Do you remember what he said? He said, "*Lord, I do believe.*" And this is my answer and I trust it's yours. I do believe! "*Lord, help thou mine unbelief.*"

You know, look at that text again. "*When the Son of man cometh, will he find faith on this earth?*" He has come! He came into our world in the flesh. The scripture says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and all things were made by Him, without Him was not anything made that was made, and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*" He came! "*In the fullness of time, God sent His son into the world, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were made or born under the law.*" So, He came! When the Son of man cometh, will he find favor? (He came)!

He not only came in the flesh, but He came in the gospel. **Romans 1:16** says, "*I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, also to the Greek, for therein, (in the gospel) is the righteousness of God revealed.*" It's the very holiness of God. Acceptance for sinners is revealed in the gospel. He came, the Son of man came into the world in the flesh and He came in the gospel.

Paul said in **Hebrews**, the gospel was preached to those fellows back in the wilderness. It didn't profit them. Why? It wasn't mixed with faith in them that heard it. So, I'm asking this, when the Son of man comes, (and He has come) will He find faith in me and in you? He comes to us in the gospel. Is the gospel heard, is it received, is it believed? He comes in the person of His Spirit. He said, "*I'll send the Holy Spirit into the world, I'll send my Spirit into the world, and He will convict this world of sin and of righteousness and of unbelief, (sin, righteousness and judgment), because they believe not on me.*"

Then, one day, I'll tell you this, He's going to come for you and He's going to come for me and take us out of this world. It's just going to be like when He came through the land of Egypt at midnight and struck down the first-born. He's coming! He said, "*I go to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place, I will come again, and receive you.*" When He comes, will He find faith? That's the question, (when He comes). He came in the flesh, He came into the world, He came in the power of His Spirit, and that is what I'm doing on this program and have for 20 years now, preaching the gospel of God's grace, preaching the gospel of the Saviour who came into the world that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. It doesn't matter what you think of me, it doesn't matter how I appear to you, how I look, or the different settings we have here. It's not the setting, it's

not the preacher, and it's not the impression I make, (it's the gospel)! It's the message; it's the truth. He came! I'll tell you this; He's coming again to destroy this world. He's coming to establish a new heaven and a new earth and to judge this world.

“God hath appointed a day in which He's going to judge this world in righteousness, by that man, whom He hath ordained, whereof He gave assurance to the whole world, that He raised Him from the dead.” Christ was crucified and died on that cross. He was buried at the hands of men and raised by the power of God. When God raised Him, He said, “Here's my Fellow, here's my Man, here's my righteousness, here's my Redeemer, here's my Messiah, and here's my king, Lord and Christ. Now, do you believe? When He comes, will He find faith? Do you believe on the Son of God?”

Our Lord healed a man of blindness. He had been blind all of his life. When he found him later, he said, *“Dost thou believe on the Son of God?”* The man said, *“Who is He Lord, that I might believe?”* Tell me who He is; tell me.

I'm going to give you several things about faith. I believe I can help us with this matter of faith. Will he find faith? I'm going to tell you where faith is found, and what the results are.

First of all, where true faith is found, it's the gift of God. Did you know that? Where true faith is found, it's the gift of God. It's also the work of God. Listen to **Ephesians 2**, *“For by grace have you been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, (faith is not of yourselves), it's the gift of God. It's not of works, lest any man should boast.”* *For it's God who worketh in you, both to will, to desire, to believe and to do of His good pleasure.”* *By grace are you saved, (by His free sovereign grace), are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves.”* Faith is not the product of the natural heart. *“It's a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. We are His workmanship and we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works.”* **Philippians 1: 29** says this, *“For unto you it is given, in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but to suffer for His sake.”* Wherever you find faith, you find the work of God, you find the gift of God and you find the power of God.

This is what Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica. He said, *“I know you're God's elect, because our gospel didn't come to you in word only, it came to you in power. It came to you in the Holy Ghost. It came to you in much assurance.”* **Hebrews 12: 2** says, *“Looking unto Jesus the author of our faith.”* What's an author? An author is a person with whom the book originates. He's the writer and there would be no book without him. An author is a painter that paints a picture. There's no picture without him. Christ is the author and finisher of our faith. It's (His) work. We're (His) workmanship. I can't take any credit or glory for anything I am, or know, or have, or hope to be, (it's the gift of God)! Where you find faith, you find God. He's working in mighty power.

Listen, to **First Timothy Chapter 3**, *“Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, seen of the angels, justified in the spirit, believed on in the world.”* To find a person who believes God is as great a miracle as the incarnation of God Almighty in human flesh. That is what that verse says. Ranking right along with the coming of Christ,

into this world, is the coming of the Spirit of God into a human heart, bringing faith. That's the reason the disciples said to our Lord one day, they said, "*Lord increase our faith.*" So, where you find faith, it's the gift of God, not of works, it's the work of God, not our works.

Secondly, where faith is found, it's the mark and evidence of divine election. If a man believes God and chooses God, it's because God has chosen him. Our Lord said that to His own inner circle, to the twelve disciples. He said, "*You didn't choose me.*" Which of you chose Me? I chose you. "*We love Him because He first loved us.*" Our love is in response to His. It's a product of His love. "*The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.*" Listen to this statement: Where you find the person that loves Christ, you'll find a person whom Christ loved first. "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but He loved us and gave His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" We love Him, because He first loved us.

He said in **Jeremiah 31:3**, the Lord said, "*I have loved you with an everlasting love.*" How long have you loved God? Well, not very long, since He revealed Himself to me. For He said, I have loved you forever. "*I've loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*" Listen to this statement: where you find the person who comes to Christ, and we do, "*to whom coming;*" we're continually coming to Christ. We came to Him; we're still coming. We shall come, we repented, we shall repent; we're still coming to Christ. Where you find a person who comes to Christ, you find a person who is drawn to Christ by the Father.

Listen to **John 6:44-45**, "*No man cometh unto me, except My Father which sent me, draw him, and I'll raise him up at the last day.*" It is written in the scriptures, and they are all taught of God. *He that heareth my Word and learneth of me, cometh unto me. No man can come to me except my Father draw him.*" So, if you find one who has come to Christ, it is because the Father (drew him) to Christ. "*All that my Father giveth me, they'll come to me.*"

Listen to this statement; where you find a person who continues in the faith, and continues to believe; this is something we experience throughout our lives. People who are leaving the church and leaving the fellowship don't have real faith, like Demas of old, "*Demas hath forsaken us, having loved this present world.*" John said something in **First John** about it. He said, "*They went out from us, but they weren't of us, for if they had been of us, they wouldn't have gone out from us, they would have stayed with us.*" If you find a person that continues in the faith, listen to me now, a person that continues all his or her life in Christ, continues in the faith, you will find a person who is kept by the Father. The scripture says that we are kept by the power of God, through faith, (not apart from faith); "*We're kept by the power of God through faith.*" It says in **Philippians**, He that hath begun a good work, Paul says, I'm confident of this, "*He that hath begun a good work in you will finish it in the day of Christ Jesus.*" That's right! Where you find faith, it's the work of God. Where you find faith, it's the mark of God's elect, God's chosen.

Thirdly, where you find faith, you find life, spiritual life. Where you find faith, you find spiritual life. Listen carefully! Here, I will talk about the new birth; it's essential; "*you must be born again.*" The new birth isn't something that you do; it's something that God does. We're born of God. "*We're not born of the will of the flesh,* (not the will of a friend, not of natural genealogy or bloodlines); *we're born of God.*" Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, now isn't that what I'm talking about, believing God, believing Christ, and trusting Christ? Well, everybody who believes on Christ is born of God. He is born of God. He's not alive because he believes, he believes because he's alive! Where you find faith, you'll find a person believing God. You'll find a person who has been born again.

Here's a baby born into the world; that baby sees, that baby hears, that baby cries, and seeks the breast of its mother. The baby loves its mother. There has to be life before there can be those things. The baby doesn't have life; he's not born because he sees, he sees because he's born. He's not born because he hears, he hears because he's born. He doesn't seek his mother's breast for nourishment, he's not born because he does that, and he does that because he's alive. Life is the gift of God! So, we're born again by the Spirit of God. We're born again by the seed of the Word of God. We're born again by the power of God and all who are born again, see Christ, hear Christ, love Christ, believe Christ and seek Christ. It is because they are (alive)! Where do you find faith? You find a person born of God. "*Everyone that loveth is born of God.*" He has already been born of God. Everyone that loveth is born of God, "*And whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, he's born of God.*" (1John 5:1).

Fourthly, where faith is found, listen to this, where faith is found, true Israel is found. There's a lot to talk about Israel. The Old Testament is full of Israel, but that Israel is a true type of true Israel (spirit Israel). True Israel is the people who have been born of God and who believe on Christ. Now listen, **Romans 2:28-29**, "*He's not a Jew that is one outwardly, he is a Jew which is one inwardly. Circumcision is not of the flesh, it is of the heart.*" **Galatians 3:7** says, "*Do you not know that they which are of faith, they are the children of Abraham?*" The people over in Lebanon and Gaza and Jerusalem, they are not the seed of Abraham. They are not the sons of Abraham. They are not the children of Abraham; they are the descendents of Abraham by flesh. I'm a son of Abraham; you're a son of Abraham. Listen again, "*Do you not know that they which are of faith, (faith in Christ) they are the children of Abraham.*" **Galatians 3:16** says, "*Now to Abraham, and his seed, were the promises made.*"

I hear people talking about God promised the Holy Land and the world to the Jews through Abraham. God promised the kingdom to the seed of Abraham. (S-E-E-D), it's singular not plural. Listen, it's not the seeds, as of many, but the seed, which is Christ! **Galatians 3:16**, Let me read it again. "*Now to Abraham and his seed,*" who's that? The seed is every believer! We're children of God by faith. We're children of Abraham by faith. To Abraham and his seed, (singular), were the promises made. There were promises of life, everlasting life, inheritance, not the seeds as of many, but the seed, which is one, (Christ)! "*If you be Christ's then are you Abraham's seed.*" Do you see that?

Paul said, “*We’re true Israel who worship God in the Spirit, who rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,*” that’s Israel. “*All Israel shall be saved.*” Folks across the sea who do not believe the Word of God, who do not believe Christ, may be fleshly descendents of Abraham, but they are not children of Abraham, they are not children of God, and they are not Israel. God’s going to set up a Kingdom, but it’s not some earthly Kingdom down here where Jerusalem’s rebuilt and the temple’s rebuilt and the sacrifices are offered. Christ has already come and fulfilled all of that. The new Kingdom, the heavenly Kingdom is the Kingdom of true Israel. He’s not a Jew who is one outwardly; he’s a Jew, which is one inwardly, by faith in Christ. All who believe and are of the faith, they are the children of Abraham. That’s true Israel.

Now, **fifthly**, where you find faith, obedience is found. There’s obedience to Christ, in heart and life. You can’t separate faith and conduct. You can’t separate belief and obedience. If a man is in Christ Jesus, he’s a new creature. To love Christ, is to love His Word. To love Christ is to love His law. To love Christ, is to love His people, and to love His commandments. Paul writing to that church at Thessalonica, he gave thanks for those people, he gave thanks for them and then he said, “*I remember your works of faith,*” and faith if it’s genuine has works, good works, kind works, and works of charity. “*I remember your labor of love.*” Can a man love God and not love others? Can a man love Christ, and not love His people? John says he can’t. How can he love God whom he hasn’t seen and not love his brother whom he has seen? To love is to give; to love is to forgive, to love is to serve. Paul says to this church at Thessalonica, “*I know about your works of faith, I know about your labors of love, and I know about your patience and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.*” They continued, true believers continue in faith, and continue in obedience.

Now listen, where true faith is found, there’ll be a confession of Christ. There’ll be an open confession of Christ. I don’t believe the Lord has any secret disciples, do you? I just don’t believe that. He said, “*If you confess me before men, I’ll confess you before the Father. If you deny me, I’ll deny you.*” I don’t believe our Lord has any secret disciples. “*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord, believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved, so, faith is the gift of God.*” Faith is the work of God and faith is the life of God. Faith is a characteristic of the children of God and faith is obedient, and walks in godliness, and faith confesses Christ.

You know, Able confessed Christ by offering a true sacrifice. Enoch confessed Christ; he walked with God. Noah confessed Christ; he built the ark. Abraham confessed Christ, he offered his son. That’s confessing Christ! How do you confess Christ? Do you do it in the heart to receive Him as Lord, to identify with His people, to follow Him in believer’s baptism and to confess Him daily in my walk, my talk, attitude, conversation and my character? To be unkind to others is not confessing Christ. To be selfish and not to forgive others, that is not confessing Christ. Husbands and wives who are unkind to each other, that’s not confessing Christ. To confess Christ is to walk with Him in obedience, and love and holiness. When the Son of man cometh, will He find faith?

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