

“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session # 63, Sola Fide - “The Exercise and Acts of Faith”, Prepared by Pastor Paul Rendall for the Adult Sunday School Class on January 10th, 2016.

In the Scriptures we are given many good verses which help us to understanding better what faith is, and how much we need to exercise it. This morning we want to look at the exercise and acts of faith.

1. To exercise Faith is so important that you will find it commanded in the Scriptures.

1st John 3: 23 – “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

2. Not to exercise faith is a sin.

John 16: 8-11 – “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

R.L. Dabney says: “The Scriptures represent faith, not only as a privilege, but a duty, and unbelief as a sin. Now, it seems clear that nothing is a sin, in which there is no voluntary element. The mere notion of the understanding arises upon the sight of evidence involuntary; and there is no moral desert or ill-desert about it, any more than in being hurt when hit. And the reason why we are responsible for our belief on moral subjects is, that there is always an active, or voluntary element, about such belief. The nature thereof is explained by what has been said above on the order of causation between our disposition or propensities, and our opinions concerning their objects.”

3. Faith is the exercise of the soul in embracing Christ: “We define faith as a holy exercise of the soul; but we do not attribute its instrumentality to justify, to its holiness, but to the fact that it embraces Christ’s justifying righteousness. It is neither strange nor unreasonable, that a thing should have two or more attributes, and yet be adapted by one special attribute among them, to a given instrumentality. The diamond is transparent, but it is its hardness which fits it for cutting glass. True faith is obediential: it involves the will: it has moral quality: but its receptive nature is what fits it to be the organ of our justification. Hence it does not follow that we introduce justification by our own moral merit.” “Faith does not justify in virtue of its rightness, but in virtue of its receptivity. Whatever right moral quality it has, has no relevancy whatever to be, of itself, a justifying righteousness; and is excluded from the justifying instrumentality of faith; 11: 6. But faith justifies by its instrumentality of laying hold of Christ’s righteousness, in which aspect it does not contribute, but receives, the moral merit.”

Song of Solomon 3: 1-4 – “By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. 2 "I will rise now," I said, "And go about the city; In the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love." I sought him, but I did not find him. 3 The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, "Have you seen the one I love?" 4 Scarcely had I passed by them, When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go, until I had brought him to the house of my mother, and into the chamber of her who conceived me.”

Hebrews 11: 13 – “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

4. Faith is Laying Hold of Christ and the sure hope that is found in Him.

Hebrews 6: 17-20 – “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

5. Faith will pray and beg answers of the Lord Jesus.

Mark 5: 21-24 – “Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea.

Mar 5:22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet

Mar 5:23 and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."

Mar 5:24 So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

6. Faith is touching Jesus spiritually; coming to Him knowing that He can make you well and whole.

Mark 5: 25-34 – “Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,

Mar 5:26 and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

Mar 5:27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment.

Mar 5:28 For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Mar 5:29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

Mar 5:30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

Mar 5:31 But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "

Mar 5:32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

Mar 5:33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

Mar 5:34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

7. Jesus knows how to quell our fears and take away our anxieties, but He expects that we will believe in Him to see Him do His greatest works.

Mar 5:35-43 – While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Mar 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

Mar 5:37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Mar 5:38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.

Mar 5:39 When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."

Mar 5:40 And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

Mar 5:41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Mar 5:42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

Mar 5:43 But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

8. Our asking things in prayer ought to be done in faith.

James 1: 5-8 – "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

Jas 1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.