

Introduction:

1. The Constitution Central To The United States Of America!
 - Our Existence / Our Structure / Our Laws
 - On Display At The National Archives In Washington, D.C.
 - Age - Very Worn - Deteriorate - Preserve - 5 Years / \$5 Million / Hundreds Of Experts Build Glass & Titanium Cases!
2. Faith Is Central In The Life Of A Christian!
 - Hebrews 11:1 - “ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!”
 - Because Christian Faith Is So Central, We Need To Look At Faith Itself!
 - A Christian Is Saved Through Faith!
 - John 3:16 - “ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!”
 - Ephesians 2:8 - “ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God!”
 - A Christian Lives By Faith!
 - Hebrews 10:38 - “ Now the just shall live by faith!”
 - Quotes Habakkuk 2:4!
 - A Christian Hopes By Faith!
 - “ Now Faith Is The Substance Of Things Hoped For!”
 - Faith Is The Foundation Of Your Hope!
 - A Christian Sees By Faith!
 - “ The Evidence Of Things Not Seen!”
 - Faith Is The Evidence Of Your Present & Future Blessings!
 - Hebrews 11 Constantly Repeats:
 - “ By Faith!”
 - But, In Order For You To Live By Faith, You Must First Have Faith!
 - The Critical Question: Do You Have Faith?
3. Because Faith Is So Central:
 - Spend The Time / Energy / Effort To Understand & Preserve Christian Faith!
1. Do You Have A Right Understanding Of Faith?
 - Faith Is Intelligent – Not Based On Ignorance?
 - Opposed To Logic, Science, Evidence & Truth? Mark Twain: “ Faith is Believing What You Know Ain’t So!”
 - The Fact Is: Faith Is Intelligent – Based On Facts!
 - Faith Is Consideration – Care Thought & Deliberation!
 - Faith Is A Matter Of The Head!
 - Jesus Asked In Matthew 22:42 - “ What Think Ye Of Christ?”
 - Romans 10:17 - “ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - But Faith Is Not Just A Matter Of The Head!
 - James 2:19 - “ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble!”
 - IE: 3 Other Elements, Weaved Together To Form The Fabric Of Faith!
 - Faith Is Also Firm & Not Just A Feeling!
 - Comes & Goes, Depending On Circumstances & Emotions?
 - IE: “ Fair Weather Fan” - “ Fair Weather Christians”
 - The Fact Is: Faith Is Firm!
 - Faith Is Confidence!
 - Faith Is A Matter Of The Heart!
 - Psalm 57:7 - “ My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed!”
 - Faith Is A Matter Of The Head & Heart!
 - Faith Is Also Bold & Not Blind!
 - Not A “ Blind Leap Of Faith” - Jump Off Platform
 - The Fact Is: Faith Is Bold!
 - Faith Is Conviction!
 - Faith Is A Matter Of The Will!
 - 2 Timothy 1:12 - “ For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day!”
 - Faith Is A Matter Of The Head, Heart & Will!
 - Faith Is Also Active & Not Passive!

- IE: Like An Insurance You Pay For & Then Wait For It To Kick In When Something Happens!
- The Fact Is: Faith Is Active!
 - Faith Is Commitment – Visible!
 - Faith Is A Matter Of Living!
 - James 2:18 - “ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works!”
- Faith Is A Matter Of The Head, Heart, Will & Life!

- Christian Faith Includes All Of These Things!
 - Not In Stages: Consideration / Confidence / Conviction / Commitment
 - All These Elements Will Be In Your Faith, If It Is True Faith!
 - It May Be The Size Of A “ Grain Of Mustard Seed”, But They Will All Be Present, Like All The Parts Of A Baby’s Body!

- * Do You Have A Right Understanding Of Faith?
 - Because, In Order For You To Live By Faith, You Must First Have Faith!
 - Do You Have This Kind Of Faith?
 - A Faith That Has Captured Your Mind, Heart, Will & Entire Life?
 - Do You Have Faith?

2. Do You Have The Right Focus For Your Faith?

- Faith Is Not Ignorant Nor Is It Blind – It Is Based Upon Something – Rather, Someone!
 - Hebrews 11 - “ By Faith” - Content Found In Verse 3, 6, 13!
 - Faith, In Its Various Forms (Noun & Verb) Appears Nearly 500 Times In The New Testament - The Object / Focus Of Faith Is God’s Redemption Of Sinners Through Jesus Christ!
- Faith, In And Of Itself, Does Not Save!
 - Many People Have Faith In God Or A God – And Cannot Be Saved!
 - Your Faith Must Be In The One Who Has The Power To Meet The Deepest Need Of Your Soul – Salvation From Sin!
 - The Power To Save You Does Not Rest In The Amount Of Your Faith Or Even The Strength Of Your Faith – It Is In The Object / Focus Of Your Faith!
- Paul Had The Right Understanding & Focus Of Faith:
 - Philippians 3:8-11 - “ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, / And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: / That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; / If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead!”
 - His Faith Was A Matter Of His Head - The Focus Of His Consideration Was Jesus Christ Himself!
 - His Faith Was A Matter Of His Heart - The Focus Of His Confidence Was In The Power Of Jesus Christ!
 - His Faith Was A Matter Of His Will - The Focus Of Conviction Was On The Sufferings Of Jesus Christ!
 - His Faith Was A Matter Of His Life - The Focus Of His Commitment Was To The Likeness Of Jesus Christ!
- For Paul, Jesus Christ Was His “ All In All!”
 - This Is The Focus Of Real Christian Faith!
- * Do You Have The Right Focus For Your Faith?
 - And You Cannot Live By Faith, Unless You First Have This Kind Of Faith!
 - What Kind Of Faith Do You Have?

3. Have You Received Real Faith?

- Is There Something Missing In Your Faith?
 - Your Understanding? Your Focus?
 - Where Can You Go To? To Whom Must You Turn?
- You Must Go To The Source!
 - Ephesians 2:8 - “ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God!”
 - Philippians 1:29 - “ For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake!”
 - The Disciples Understood Where They Must Go For Faith!
 - Luke 17:5 - “ And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith!”
 - The Man With The Possessed Son Knew Where He Could Turn!
 - Mark 9:24 - “ Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!”

Conclusion:

1. Do You Want To Live A Life Of Faith?

- Like The Men And Women We Will Look At In Hebrews 11?
- Do You Want Your Faith To Grow?
- 2. In Order For You To Live By Faith, You Must First Have Faith!
 - And Faith Is Central In The Life Of A Christian!
 - Do You Have Faith?
 - This Is A Critical Question!
- 3. You Must Turn To The Lord Alone For Him To:
 - Give It, Help It, Strengthen It, Or Cause It To Grow!
 - Pray & Ask For It! Pray, Believing That You Will Receive It!
 - And When You Have Faith, You Will Then Be Able To Live By Faith!

* Hymn: "Is Your All On The Altar?"

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