

THE NECESSITY AND BLESSINGS OF FAITH

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. Humanly speaking: we demonstrate faith every day and in all kinds of situations.
- B. Spiritually speaking: faith is depending on God, trusting God, and trusting His word. Faith in God is supernatural, and is that which you need to live your everyday life.

II. JESUS TALKED A LOT ABOUT FAITH

- A. Matthew 6:30, 8:10, 9:22, 9:29, 15:28, 17:20; Mark 2:5, 4:40, 11:22; Luke 18:8, 22:32
- B. Jesus was talking to Jews and Gentiles. He was talking about no faith, little faith and great faith. He was talking about faith as it related to both physical and spiritual matters.
- C. True faith means you are not looking to yourself, but to God, to the only One who can truly help you in life in the way you need to be helped.

III. COMPONENTS AND RESULTS OF FAITH – Hebrews 11:6, Proverbs 28:25-26

- A. A person who has faith believes God exists.
- B. A person who has faith believes God created the world.
- C. A person who has faith, spiritually speaking, comes to God.
- D. A person who has faith talks to God, and believes God actually hears him.
- E. A person who has faith believes God is good, and wants to give what is good.
- F. A person who has faith wants to please God, and believes God will bless Him.
- G. A person who has faith will prosper and be blessed.

IV. THE NEED FOR FAITH TO BE SAVED

- A. John 3:16 – “*whoever believes in Him...*”; Acts 20:21- “*faith in our Lord Jesus...*”; Romans 10:9-10 - “*believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead...*”; Mark 1:15 – “*believe in the gospel...*”; Ephesians 2:8-9 - “*you are saved through faith.*”
- B. Faith is a gift from God – Ephesians 2:8-9, Acts 3:16, Philippians 1:29

V. FAITH AND THE PAST

Being thankful for the past is an expression of your faith in God. You need to be thankful for both good things and bad things that have happened in life. You need to know that God has been sovereign in your life. Genesis 41:51-52

VI. FAITH AND THE FUTURE

A. Believe the promises of God, that God has a good future for you.
2 Peter 1:2-5; Jeremiah 29:11-12; Psalm 23:6b, 31:16, 32:8, 84

B. The hope God wants you to have speaks of the future He has for you. Hope means you are trusting God for this great future that He has promised you. Romans 15:13

VII. FAITH AND THE PRESENT

A. You are to walk by faith, trusting God for every minute of the day. Galatians 5:16

B. You are to believe that God loves you. 1 John 4:16

C. You are to trust God when you are afraid or worried. Psalm 56:3, 112:7

D. You are to pray by faith. Mark 9:23-24, 29; 11:23-24

E. You are to believe that God will lead your life. Psalm 143:8

F. You are trust God to meet your needs. Matthew 6:25-31

G. You are to believe that God will use you to fulfill His purposes. Matthew 6:33

H. You are to believe that Jesus Christ lives in your heart. Ephesians 3:14-17

VIII. HOW TO GROW IN FAITH

A. Ask God to increase your faith. Mark 9:23-27

B. Think about the character of God. Psalm 9:10

C. Read the word of God. Romans 10:17

D. Learn from the example of godly Christians. 1 Timothy 4:12

E. Learn to trust God as you go through trials. James 1:3

F. Remember what God has done in the past. Psalm 77, 78:7

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.
IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,
AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.
PROVERBS 3:5-6

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is faith? Why is faith so important?
3. What are some things that Jesus said about faith?
4. How does faith relate to salvation, to the forgiveness of your sins?
5. Why is faith necessary for how you think about the future?
6. Give examples of how faith relates to how you live your daily life?
7. How can you grow in faith?