

## **Lesson #10—The Perspective of the Response of Faith, Love and Hope**

### **Introduction**

- A. One vitally important part of self-understanding is related to our ability as believers to respond to God. Faith is a gift and we have received that gift in salvation.
- B. As believers we are rational, moral and particularly spiritual persons. This is not only due to our creation in the image of God but to our recreation in and through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
- C. It is in this area of responding to God that we are most profoundly the sinner. God has made it possible for us to walk and talk with Himself. When we fail to walk with God through neglect, lethargy or some act of disobedience we not only deprive ourselves of the greatest blessing possible—we bring upon ourselves a serious judgment.

### **I. The Explanation of this Biblical Response.**

- A. The definition/character of faith, love and hope.
  - 1. In general: these are practical decisions based on the Scripture.
    - a. Example: faith. (Taking God at His Word and putting it into practice trusting Him for the outcome.)
      - 1). The goal of faith: God Himself.
      - 2). The content of faith: the Scripture.
      - 3). The character of faith: decisions.
        - a). Involving negative choices: Romans 4:18-20.
        - b). Involving positive choices: Hebrews 11:24-29.
        - c). Involving action: James 2:17.
    - b. Love and hope fit the same pattern.
      - 1). Love is giving God His rightful place in one's life.
      - 2). Hope is applying faith and love to the future.
  - 2. In particular: These are practical decisions based on the Scripture but applied to specific problems or opportunities.
    - a. They become the basis of action in times of crisis, Acts 27:25.
    - b. They determine all of the attitudes and actions of a godly person, I Thessalonians 1:3.
- B. The importance of faith, love and hope.
  - Hebrews 11:6—
  - Matthew 22:36-40—
  - I Peter 1:3, 21—
- C. The daily, practical priority of faith, love and hope.
  - I Corinthians 13:13—
  - I Thessalonians 1:3—
  - I Thessalonians 5:8—
  - I Peter 1:21, 22—

## II. The Instruction Related to this Biblical Response.

- A. We must daily implement faith, love and hope regarding the goal set for us in our creation.
  - 1. God created us for Himself—for divine fellowship, I Cor. 1:9.
  - 2. Faith, love and hope forms the basis for the practice of this truth, I John 1:5-10.
- B. We must daily implement faith, love and hope regarding the nature of the Fall and the character of sin.
  - 1. We must give up our self-rule and choose to give Jesus Christ His rightful place as our Lord. Mark 8:34
  - 2. We may not trust ourselves. Our thoughts, feelings and conscience are not the final authority. Jeremiah 10:23
- C. We must daily implement faith, love and hope regarding the provision in salvation.
  - 1. Accept the assurance of salvation that we are complete in Jesus Christ. Col. 2:10
  - 2. Accept the privileges of salvation regarding prayer, the Scripture, and walking with God in daily obedience. Eph. 1:3
- D. We must daily implement faith, love and hope regarding the adequacy of sanctification.
  - 1. Respond to the cleansing provided through the Crucifixion. Rom. 6:6
  - 2. Respond to the enablement provided through the Resurrection. Rom. 6:4
  - 3. Respond to the deliverance provided through the Ascension. Eph. 1:18-23
  - 4. Respond to the anointing provided through the Day of Pentecost. Eph. 5:18

## III. The Summary Exhortation Related to this Biblical Response: "Take Charge."

- A. In our creation God created us as persons and our functions of mind, emotions and body were placed under our control. Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
- B. In the Fall we lost control of our functions. Rom. 1:21-32; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19.
- C. In salvation the bondage of sin has been broken and the believer can now live with self control.
  - 1. Our functions (thoughts, emotions and bodily desires) are susceptible to serious influence from the flesh, the world system and Satan. Rom. 8:13; I John 2:15-17; Acts 5:1-11.
  - 2. We must cooperate with the Holy Spirit in bringing our thoughts, emotions and bodily desires into harmony with the will of God. II Cor. 10:4, 5; Gal. 5:22, 23; Eph. 4:20-32; Col. 3:1-17
  - 3. Suggestion: "in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I take charge of my thinking. I refuse to accept that thought of \_\_\_\_\_. In dependence on the True and Living God I bring all my thinking into subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ."

## Conclusion: Suggestions for memorization and application.

- A. Memorize Galatians 5:22, 23.
- B. Apply this lesson by daily making the following affirmation:

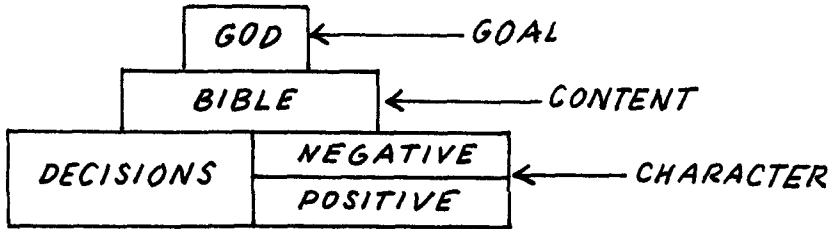
Holy Father, my only desire is that You would be glorified in my life. Teach me and enable me to exalt Yourself by manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit in my attitudes and actions. I commit myself to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

YOU

A PERSON OF FAITH

LOVE

HOPE



MIND = THOUGHTS

PERSON EMOTIONS = FEELINGS

BODY = DESIRES

PATTERN OF

FLESH	SPIRIT
GAL. 5: 16,17	GAL. 5: 22,23