

Lesson # 3 -- The Biblical Description of Faith.

Introduction

- A. Man was created so he could respond to God. Faith was an ability whereby man could choose to fellowship with God, to obey Him, to love Him and to acknowledge Him in all areas of his life through complete submission and aggressive trust.
- B. The non-Christian is described as being without faith. Luke 12:46; I Cor. 6:6; 7:14; 14:23; II Cor. 6:14; Titus 1:15; Rev. 21:8
- C. One important part of what it means to be a "believer" is that he has faith (II Peter 1:1). This has been given as a gift (Eph. 2:8,9), through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Scripture (Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 4:6). The believer is one who has received the Lord Jesus Christ by believing on Him (John 1:12) and now has the ability to live by faith (II Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; Hebrews 11).

I. The Importance of Faith.

- A. This is seen in the Biblical statements emphasizing its necessity.

Matthew 6:30 --

Mark 4:40 --

Mark 11:22 --

Luke 18:8 --

Acts 6:5,8 --

Hebrews 11:6 --

II Peter 1:1 --

Revelation 2:13 --

B. This is seen in the value of those things which are received by faith.

Acts 15:9 -- purity of heart.

Acts 26:18 -- forgiveness, inheritance, sanctification.

Romans 1:12 -- the comfort of fellowship.

Romans 1:17 -- a living relationship with God.

Romans 5:1 -- justification, peace.

Romans 5:2 -- access to God.

II Corinthians 5:7 -- a walk that pleases God.

Galatians 2:20 -- a life indwelt by God.

Galatians 3:1-3 -- the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:5 -- the hope of righteousness.

Ephesians 3:17 -- a life whereby Jesus Christ would be at home in our hearts.

C. This is seen in some of the warnings regarding faith.

Matthew 13:58 --

Mark 16:14 --

Hebrews 3:12 --

Hebrews 3:19 --

II. Biblical Examples of Faith.

A. Matthew 8:5-13

1. Faith has to do with a person.

2. Faith has to do with who that person is.

3. Faith has to do with the word of that person.

4. Faith has to do with the acceptance and practice of that word.

B. Matthew 12:10-13

1. The power and provision of God accompanies His Word.
2. The response and obedience of the man was based on and made possible by the power in the command of the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Romans 4:17-21

1. Faith is highly personal and is based on the character of the one you believe, V17.
2. Faith is not based on emotions or circumstances, Vs 18,19.
3. Faith accepts the promises of God as true and interprets them on the basis of the attributes of God, Vs 20,21.

D. Hebrews 3:7-19

1. The historical setting: Numbers 13 and 14. Israel, in spite of God's promise and many examples of His power and faithfulness, failed to believe God. This manifested itself in their failure to enter the land.
2. The Biblical comment on this defection of faith.
 - a. Deuteronomy 7:17 --
 - b. Deuteronomy 9:23,24 --
 - c. Psalm 78:41,42 --

E. Matthew 15:21-28

1. Faith and submission are always closely interrelated.
2. Faith is related to a person and perseveres in spite of circumstances.