

The Biblical Basis for Faith, Love and Hope

Introduction

- A. The Bible continually emphasizes the necessity of a correct response to God. This response is characterized by faith, love and hope. Whatever we think, desire and do, all of our attitudes, aspirations and actions must be in harmony with and in the context of trusting God, loving God, and making Him the object of our hope.
- B. At first glance this appears to be very confusing and difficult. It is such - particularly for the believer who has been a Christian for a number of years and has not been correctly taught. Once we live incorrectly, we establish certain patterns of life which are not easy to evaluate nor to correct. Such patterns continue to hamper us and lead us into defeat.
- C. The very first step in solving this problem and being led into a life of spiritual freedom and fruitfulness is the topic before us. We must understand the basis, the source, or the foundation of genuine faith, love and hope. The Biblical basis of a correct response to God is twofold.

I. The True and Living God.

A. God - as the Person that He is.

- 1. Principle: The object of our faith, love and hope is a PERSON! He is the infinite God - the Creator of all things and worthy of all our trust and affection.
- 2. Illustration:
 - a. David - in his confrontation with Goliath, I Samuel 17:20-51.

. . . I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom thou hast defied. This day the LORD will deliver thee into mine hand . . . for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands. (I Samuel 17:45-47)
 - b. Daniel - in his protection from the lions, Daniel 6:1-28.

. . . So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in His God. (Daniel 6:23)
 - c. See also Asa in II Chronicles 14-16 and Paul in Acts 27.

B. God - as Absolute in Truth, Love and Holiness.

- 1. Principle: God will always remain true to Himself in all of his relationships and actions with us. He will never act out of harmony with the true meaning of truth, love and holiness. God can be trusted.
- 2. Illustration:
 - a. He is the God of truth - absolute in truth and thus faithfulness.

I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; I Thess. 5:24; II Thess. 3:3; Hebrews 2:17; 10:23
I John 1:9; Revelation 1:5
 - b. He is the God of love - absolute in love and thus goodness.

Exodus 34:6; Psalm 23:6; 31:19; Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 3:1; John 15:9; 17:23; Romans 8:38,39; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3;19

c. He is the God of holiness- absolute in holiness and thus righteousness
Leviticus 11:44,45; Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; Hosea 14:9; Daniel 9:7,16;
Isaiah 57:15; Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 1:19,16

II. The True and Living Word of God.

A. The Word of God is Truth and Therefore Trustworthy.

1. Principle: The Bible is God's Word. He stands behind His Word. He maintains His Word. The Word of God cannot fail because God cannot fail. God is true to Himself and to His Word.

2. Illustration:

Psalms 119:49,50 -- the Word of God brings hope, comfort and quickening.

Psalms 146:5,6 -- the Word of God is upheld by God,

Jeremiah 32:1-44 (vs. 17,27) -- God manifests His power in His Word.

Romans 4:21 -- true faith believes that God will fulfill His promises.

Hebrews 2:1-3 -- the Word of God cannot fail - it is His spoken Word.

B. The Word of God is Living and Therefore Powerful.

1. Principle: The power of God accompanies the Word of God. God "speaks" His power into our lives through His Word. To the degree that we know and practice the Word of God - to that degree we have the experience of the grace of God and therefore the power of God.

2. Illustration:

Ezekiel 16:1-14 -- the Word of God is the channel of life. (v6)

Matthew 12:10-13 -- the Word of God brings the power of healing.

I Thessalonians 2:13 -- the Word of God brings a divine enablement.

Hebrews 4:12 -- the Word of God is living, powerful and evaluating.

I Peter 1:23 -- the Word of God is living and unchangeable.

Conclusion

A. The believer has a privilege: we have the Word of God with all of its potentiality, certainty, and assurance.

B. The believer has a responsibility: we must be aggressive in knowing the Word of God, in believing God, in claiming the promises of God, and in living according to the blueprint of the Bible.

Victor M. Matthews