

The Biblical Concept of Faith

Introduction

- A. The Biblical demand for faith is very clear.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6.

- B. While it is right for the Christian to read the Bible, pray, go to church, etc., we realize that that is not enough. To obey God we must do what we do – by faith.

. . . for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Romans 14:23

- I. The Basis of Faith: The Word of God.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, Rom. 10:17

And being fully persuaded that, what He (God) had promised, He was able also to perform. Rom. 4:21

Observation: That which we are to believe and obey is not gained by popular vote – it is given to us in the Holy Scripture.

- II. The Definition of Faith: Taking God at His Word and putting it into practice

Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for; it means being certain of things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1 (Phillips)

Observation: The believer's confidence and certainty comes from the understanding that God's Word is Truth.

- III. The Object of Faith: The True and Living God.

Jesus said unto her; I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this? John 11:25,26

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house. Acts 16:31

Observation: Faith is a trust in a Person – He is absolute in Truth, Love and Holiness and therefore worthy of all trust and confidence

- IV. The Explanation of Faith: Faith is a decision which issues in action.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Hebrews 11:24

Observation: To obey God there are some things a believer must refuse!

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Hebrews 11:25

Observation: To obey God there are some things a believer must choose!

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. Hebrews 11:26

Observation: To obey God the believer must have a good value system.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him Who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27

Observation: To obey God the believer must forsake some areas of life.

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. Hebrews 11:28

Observation: To obey God there are some things the believer must do simply because God said so -- not because it's reasonable.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land; which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Hebrews 11:29

Observation: To obey God leads one to explicit trust in God alone.

V. The Context of Faith: The context is love.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6

Observation: Faith and love are two sides of the same relationship. One without the other is an impossibility. To love God is to give Him His rightful place in our lives.

VI. The Eachortation of Faith: Mix the Word of God with Faith.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them, but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in that that heard it. Hebrews 4:1,2

Observation: For the Word of God to produce cleansing, freedom and power in our lives – it must be accepted, believed and put into practice. This process is described in the Bible as "FAITH."

Conclusion

- A. Recommended procedure: isolate the problem; find Biblical principles which apply; claim the promises and obey the commands in a clear-cut practical decision of faith; implement it all in daily obedience and trust.
- B. Above all God wants us to love and trust Him.

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