

The Biblical Explanation of Faith (U)

Introduction

A. The Bible reminds us that there are some truths that we must understand and practice. One of the most important has to do with the virtue Of faith. In Hebrews 11:6 we are told that without faith it is impossible to be successful in the Christian life.

B. The term "faith" is often used to designate our response to God. There are many other facets of this concept. It is comforting to See how God has made it possible so that we may honor Him in all of the areas of our daily life.

I. The Words of Faith - the Believer's Strength, I Timothy 4:6.

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Observation: This verse designates the basis of our faith and the benefit that comes into our lives when we understand this truth. Paul is here referring to the Bible in the expression "words of faith". This is the foundation for what we are to believe and how we are to express our faith. The Scripture is our blueprint. When we put this into practice we are "nourished" and strengthened. I Peter 2:2

II. The Fight of Faith - the Believer's Warfare, I Timothy 6:12.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Observation: Because we belong to Jesus Christ we are involved in a warfare. This is not only a constant conflict with Satanic forces but also with the self-centered demands of our fleshly nature and the world about us. We must pray for and use discernment in all of the areas of our daily life. It is possible to ruin our life.

III. The Common Faith - the Believer's Identification, Titus 1:4.

To Titus, mine own son after the common faith; Grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Observation: This designation refers to that which all believers share. Every Christian has the same basic set of beliefs and has made the decision to repent, believe the gospel and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

IV. The Assurance of Faith - the Believer's Assurance, Hebrews 10:22.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Observation: There are two important truths in this verse regarding faith. The first has to do with the basis of our faith in the Bible. What a comfort to know that we have a revelation from God! The second is the realization that we have been enabled to believe God. All of this results in a firm foundation for daily assurance. I John 5:13

V. The Finisher of our Faith - the Believer's Savior, Hebrews 12:2.

Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Observation: This verse instructs us in the great truth that behind our acceptance of the message of the gospel and our believing is the work of God. The Lord Jesus Christ made it possible for us to go to Heaven and He also worked in us, through the Holy Spirit, to bring us to Himself. This great work is still being carried out in our lives.

VI. The Prayer of Faith - the Believer's Prayer, James 5:15.

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Observation: Here we are reminded of one of the most important and powerful ways we can be involved in the will of God and the lives of other people. We can pray for them. This designation "the prayer of faith" shows us that prayer is claiming the promises of God for another and the attitude of trusting God to work out His will through these promises. Much of our spiritual and physical weakness is due to our lack of relating to one another by Biblical prayer.

VII. The Precious Faith - the Believer's Possession, II Peter 1:1.

Simon Peter, a servant and an Apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Observation: Peter, in this description of faith as "precious", is teaching us an important truth. He is telling us that faith is valuable, that it is the source of many very powerful possessions. When we consider the nature of the blessings and relationships that are ours through the Scripture and our salvation then we start to understand what this means. The true values of life are spiritual.

VIII. The Most Holy Faith - the Believer's Character, Jude 20.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Observation: The possession of faith as a believing and obedient response to God is an indication of the New Birth. Every person who has believed God and received the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord has been made holy. Holiness is therefore looked upon, in the Bible, as inseparable from faith. There is an important teaching here: when we choose to live an unholy life we weaken our walk of faith.

IX. The Faith of Jesus - the Believer's Relationship, Revelation 12:12.

Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Observation: This designation indicates a relationship and; a way of living. The Lord Jesus not only died and was resurrected to make it possible for us to have this faith relationship but He also is the object of our faith. What we believe and how we live all is centered in Him.