

The Concept Of Faith

I. The Biblical Emphasis on Faith.

Matthew 8:5-13	Romans 10:17	Colossians 1:29
Matthew 17:14-21	Galatians 5:6	Hebrews 4:1-4
Acts 3:16	Ephesians 2:8,9	Hebrews 11:1-13
Romans 4:17-24	Ephesians 6:16	I Peter 1:7
		I Peter 5:9

II. A Tentative Definition of Faith.

Faith is the response of the total person, to God as a Person, in loving submission, trust, and obedience, in and through the Person of Jesus Christ as the Revelation of God and Redeemer of Mankind, Who as the Sovereign Lord offers Himself to the believer, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Scripture, as his daily sufficiency.

III. Observations Concerning Faith,

- A. Faith is not a feeling - but a decision. It is a decision to take God at His Word and to act upon it. (Note the words denoting decision in Hebrews 11:8-11 and 11:28-28).
- B. Faith has readily discernable characteristics, A minimal list would include submission (to submit to God, His work, and His Word); the practice of obedience; and trust (dependence on God to fulfill His Word).
- C. Faith has a Person as its object -- God. Acts 16:33; 27:25.
- D. Faith has a context -- love, Galatians 5:6. For faith to "work" one must have genuine love. Love and faith are mutually dependent, This is why it is difficult to have genuine faith when one is out of fellowship with God.
- E. Faith has a basis -- the Scripture, Hebrews 4:1-3; John 17:17,19,20.

IV. The Steps in a Decision of Faith.

- A. The basis is found in the Word of God, I John 1:9, (Often one has a need to exercise faith in regard to some specific sin. It is therefore necessary to learn how to make a decision of faith, The following steps illustrates such a decision).
- B. The individual steps,
 - 1. Confess it as a sin.
 - 2. Forsake it as a sin.
 - 3. Believe God that He will forgive and cleanse.
 - 4. Receive Christ as the specific cleansing and enablement.
 - 5. Believe God has given His Word and act upon it - live as a cleansed person.
- C. The Promised Result: forgiveness, cleansing, and freedom

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