

The Methodology of Spirituality: Decisions of Faith.

Introduction

- A. We have considered The Requirement of Spirituality: Surrendering our Self-Centeredness; and The Context of Spirituality: Assurance of Salvation.
- B. Spirituality may be defined as the quality of our relationship with God. As we use the word the reference is to a vibrant quality – characterized by the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23).
- C. In this step it will be helpful to consider how we are to live so we can implement in daily life the will of God – what truths must we practice?

I. The Exhortation Regarding Faith.

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. Heb. 11:6

Comment: Here we are clearly taught that faith is one of the truths that must be understood and practiced in order to please God, i.e. be a spiritual person. The reason for this is clear. It is because true faith includes such essential truths as a true knowledge of God (that He is), submission to God and His will (rewarder), and commitment (diligently seek Him).

This verse also reminds us that faith is not a feeling. Note how the text speaks of the actions related to knowing – believing – and seeking. To put this into one word it would be obedience.

II. The Explanation Regarding 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 them that heard it. Heb. 4:1,2

Comment: This astounding verse explains how a person can know so much about the Bible – and be so unspiritual. The reason is clearly stated: in order for God to work in us through His Word – we must mix that Word by decisions of faith (knowledge, submission, commitment, and actions involving obedience).

The illustration in the passage has to do with those who came up with Moses out of the land of Egypt – but failed to believe God and thus could not enter the land of Canaan (Numbers 13,14). Think of how much they knew, the great experiences they had had, the warnings they had received, the promises they were given, the miracles they had observed, and the leadership of Moses. Yet, they failed, because they did not make a clear-cut decision to trust God.

From this text we see how faith is a bridge between truth and the obedience that is characterized by power, joy, and fruitfulness.

We must examine ourselves to see if we are mixing the truths that we know – with faith (decisions that relate to knowledge, submission, commitment, and actions involving obedience).

III. The Weakening of Faith.

A. Faith is weakened when not supported by truth.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
Romans 10:17

Comment: When we do not read and study the Word of God we take away from our faith the ability to be strong.

The Christian must learn to practice truth by making decisions to implement the Bible into daily life – with the attitude of trusting God.

B. Faith is weakened when we do not remember what we have been taught.

Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Matt. 16:8,9

Comment: The Lord leads us through experiences good and bad so we can learn to trust Him. We must remember such times and apply the truths we have learned to our daily life now. To forget is to weaken our faith.

C. Faith is weakened when we do not obey God.

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare. Holding faith, and a good conscience, which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck. I Tim. 1:18,19

Comment: In this important passage Paul tells Timothy, and us, that faith is related to a good conscience. He reminds the young pastor that he is in a warfare – and that faith is one of his essential weapons. Therefore, he must always live in the will of God – in obedience to God – so he can live and work by faith.

We must face this truth today. All forms of disobedience will weaken our faith – and thus all the other areas of our life and service. To make decisions to violate truth, submission, and commitment -- is to make a life of faith, obedience, joy, and fruitfulness an impossibility.

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