

Sermon Notes

What is Faith? - Heb 11:1

November 15, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. God wants us to live in faith, not fear... why is faith important...
Matt 9:22-29... "your faith has saved you... be done according to your faith..."
Mark 2:5... "seeing their faith, Jesus said... your sins are forgiven..."
Rom 3:22... "righteousness of God is thru faith in Jesus..."
Rom 14:23... "everything that is not from faith is sin..."
Gal 3:11... "the righteous one will live by faith..."
James 2:20... "faith without works is useless..."
- b. asked some friends a simple question this week... what is faith...
Trusting God when he hasn't told you everything or sometimes anything.
Trusting in something even when it defies logic or reason.
Faith is the currency of heaven.
Believing without natural understanding.
Believing in something even though it doesn't make sense... not always easy to have or to keep.
- c. grace is amazing, incredible, outstanding, overwhelming... but grace without faith is useless... critical to not only understand grace, but faith as well... pray...
Rom 1:5... "we have received grace... to bring about the obedience of faith..."
Heb 4:2... "grace was preached... did not benefit them... not mixed with faith..."

II. What is Faith?

- a. faith isn't reason God gives us blessings... in fact, faith doesn't make God *do* anything... faith is a response to what God has already done... faith is recognizing every good thing is already ours in Christ... blessing, supply, healing, peace...
Rom 8:17-32... "heirs of God... co-heirs with Christ... freely given all things..."
Eph 1:3... "God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ..."
Col 2:10... "you are complete in Him..."
pleroo... fill to the full; nothing wanting; make complete; render perfect; abound...
- b. faith doesn't make things real that weren't real to begin with (2x)... doesn't create anything... doesn't create healing, provision, peace... just makes them real to you...
Phm 1:6... "faith effective... by understanding every good thing we have in Christ..."
Heb 11:1... "faith is the reality of what is hoped for... proof of what is not seen..."
pistis... conviction of the truth of anything; belief...
- c. faith is a response to what your Daddy already promised... faith is not what makes forgiveness real... it already is (for whole world)... faith makes it real for you... God supplies, faith applies... gifts still need to be received in order to be useful...
Luke 7:42... "He freely forgave them..."
2Cor 5:19... "God, in Christ... not counting sins of the world against them..."
1John 2:12... "Jesus is sacrifice for sins... not only for ours... but whole world..."
Rom 5:15-19... "gift comes thru grace... receive gift of righteousness... reign..."
Eph 2:8-10... "saved by grace thru faith... not of ourselves... God's gift..."

- d. faith and belief are related... very similar, but different... faith is not an action... always noun in NT (227)... place, persuasion, conviction... that God is who He says He is... done what He says He's done... will do what He says He'll do...
Rom 4:13-25... "promise by faith... according to grace... given as gift... Abe never wavered... full convinced that God is able to do what He promised..."
Phil 3:9... "righteousness thru faith in Christ... comes on basis of faith..."
Col 1:14... "we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus..."
pistis (n)... conviction of the truth of anything; belief...
- e. the action part of faith is belief (NT 218)... both are necessary...
John 6:29... "this is the work of God... that you believe the One He sent..."
Rom 1:16-17... "gospel... is THE power of salvation... to all who believe..."
Gal 3:6... "Abraham believed God... it was credited to him as righteousness..."
pisteuo (v)... to think to be true; to place confidence in; trust Jesus is able to do it...
- f. faith is the place of believing fully in God's promises... only then can you rest... striving ceases... issue is settled... mind made up... heart at peace...
Mark 5:34... "your faith has saved you... go in peace... be healed..."
Rom 5:1... "since we have been made righteous by faith... we have peace..."
Heb 11:31... "by faith... Rahab welcomed spies in peace... didn't perish..."
- g. we live by faith (beliefs, doctrines)... either you will be convinced God is good, or not... convinced you're forgiven, or not... convinced you're healed, or not... faith is not action to get something... but place of total belief in God Himself...
Num 23:19... "God does not lie... has He ever promised and not done it..."
2Cor 1:20... "all of God's promises are Yes and Amen in Christ..."
Titus 1:2... "truth gives confidence... God does not lie... He promised..."
Heb 6:18... "impossible for God to lie... therefore, we have great confidence..."
- h. faith is place of rest... still do good works, but by grace, not law...
Heb 4:4-11... "we who have faith enter rest... make every effort to enter..."
1Cor 15:10-11... "by grace of God, I worked harder than any of them..."
Eph 2:10-8... "created to do good works... not by our works... but by grace..."
Phil 2... "God enables you... to will (desire) and act (power) for His purpose..."
- i. unbelief is a place of work... not ignorance, but conscious hardening of heart... call evil, good... don't believe... suppress truth... turn grace into sin (all verbs)...
Isa 5:20... "what sorrow for those who say evil is good and good is evil..."
John 3:36... "he who does not believe... not see life... wrath of God on him..."
Rom 1... "knew God... suppress truth... exchanged glory... every kind of sin..."
Jude 1:4... "ungodly men... turning grace into immorality... deny Jesus..."
- j. grace is important... faith is important... one is no good without the other...
faith is a response (n)... doesn't create anything... reaction to what God has already provided... appropriates blessings of God (take for one's own use)...
Rom 5:2:21 GSV... "obtain access by faith... into divine influence which strengthens and enables... grace will exercise power thru a condition acceptable to God... resulting in absolute fullness of life that belongs to God..."
- k. only you determine quantity of vessel... increases when you hear about Jesus... more faith, more grace... rest in what God has given you... pray...
Rom 12:3... "by grace... God has dealt to every man a measure of faith..."
metron... a vessel for receiving and determining the quantity of things...
2Pet 1:1... "received a faith equal to ours thru the righteousness of God..."

Rest and Find God's Grace

Luke 2:40... *the Child grew... and the grace of God was upon Him...*

This verse says that the grace of God was upon Jesus. The bible also says that where sin abounds... grace abounds much more. **Rom 5:20**. When you put the two together... you may ask, *if the grace of God was upon Jesus, does it mean He sinned?*

No, Jesus did not sin. **2Cor 5:21**. So there must be another explanation as to why God's grace was upon Jesus. There must be another explanation as to why someone can abound in God's grace even when he has not sinned.

Let's look at grace when it was first mentioned in the bible.

Gen 6:8 says, *Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

Noah's name means *rest*. This verse is telling us that **rest found grace**. In other words... when you rest... you find grace!

Grace was upon Jesus because His life was a life of rest and trust in His Father. He said, *the Son can do nothing of Himself, He can only do what He sees His Father doing.* **John 5:19**.

Likewise, grace comes upon you when you rest and trust God.

If you have a difficult child... stop nagging at him and trust God to handle the problem. Say... *Jesus, I commit this boy into Your hands, I cannot control him. You can.* If you have a persistent pain in your body, bring it to the Lord. *Jesus, I hand all my worries about this pain to You. You work on the pain.*

What if nothing happens? Honestly, if after you have given the matter to Jesus and nothing happens... what can you do?

If Jesus Himself can't do anything about it... do you think you can? Begin to praise and thank God... because once the problem is handed over to Jesus... He **can** and **will** do a perfect work in taking care of it for you.

Live a life of rest. Have this attitude and tell the Lord... *I can do nothing by myself. I just rest in You Lord. I trust You.* Then, see what happens when the grace of God comes upon you for every situation you face. You will begin to reign. **Rom 5:17**.

Pastor Joseph Prince

Sermon Study

What is Faith? - Heb 11:1 - November 15, 2020

1. **What is faith?** Why is it **important**? Read **Matt 9:22-29... Mark 2:5... Rom 3:22... Rom 14:23... Gal 3:11... James 2:20**.
2. Read **Rom 1:5** and **Heb 4:2**. How do grace and faith **fit together**?
3. How is **faith a response** to what God has already given? Read **Rom 8:17-32... Eph 1:3... Col 2:10**. Does that make having faith a little easier... knowing you **don't have to perform** to be blessed?
4. How are **faith and belief** different? How are they similar? Read **Rom 4:13-25... Phil 3:9... Col 1:14... John 6:29... Rom 1:16-17... Gal 3:6**. Be sure and read their **definitions** too!!
5. How are faith, peace, and rest **connected**? Read **Mark 5:34... Rom 5:1... Heb 11:31... Heb 4:4-11... 1Cor 15:10-11... Eph 2:10-8... Phil 2:11-12**. How does faith give **rest and peace**?
6. How has **God given** you faith? Is it **enough**? Can you **increase** it? Read **Rom 12:3... 2Pet 1:1... Rom 10:14-17**.

Quotes

*Trusting in the unseen.
Faith is the currency of heaven.
A belief in something you cannot see.
Faith is the action produced by what I really trust in.
Faith is the safe place I go to reconnect to the One who made me.
Trusting God when he hasn't told you everything or sometimes anything
Knowing, believing, or accepting something as an absolute truth outside of any evidence.
Believing in something even though it may not make sense, or when circumstances make it difficult.
Belief and agreement with the Word that pertain to my life and godliness, despite what I see or feel.
Faith is believing something without having to see it, trusting in something even when it defies logic.*