

The Just Shall Live By Faith



the righteous will live by faith

Past > **Present** > **Future**



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**Learn from the Past > Understand the Present >
Prepare for the Future**



Inreach & Outreach Resource



This booklet is an eye opener of what's happening in the world.

This 40 page A5 size booklet has the key aspects of the –

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Exercise: Elderly

Staying active in old age is a key means of staving off debilitating conditions and diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Improving flexibility, strength & endurance are necessary for maintaining strong bones and a healthy weight. Of course, one needs to tailor the activities to capabilities and be wary of restrictive health conditions.

10 home exercises for the elderly:

1. Walking: perfect for incorporating into a weekly routine
 2. Chair exercises: don't even require you to stand up.
 3. Arm curls: with dumbbells or even jugs of water.
 4. Push-up: against the wall, body straight as you lean in.
 5. Marching: lift knees one at a time as high as you can.
 6. Toe & Leg lifts: hold onto a chair & lift one leg out to side at a time maintaining a completely straight back.
 7. Head turns: to left and right and circular motions.
 8. Snow Angels: back straight to wall, stick arms out to the side, palms to the wall and move them up and down.
 9. Home stretches: stand behind chair, grab the back with a hand. Pull opposite leg behind your back with free hand
 10. Join a club or a class: to make it more interesting.
- Consistent, physical activity every day is recommended.

7 EASY EXERCISES
Try these exercises twice a week to build up your strength, balance and flexibility.

Warm-Up

1. Stationary March with Arm Swing/Seated March

Strength Exercises

2. Sit to Stand
3. Standing Hip Extension

Balance Exercises

4. Side Leg Raise
5. Single Leg Stand

Flexibility Exercise

6. Triceps Stretch

Cool Down

7. Standing Quadriceps Stretch



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



For bodily exercise profiteth little: but
godliness is profitable unto all things, having
promise of the life that now is, and of that
which is to come.

1 Timothy 4:8



The Just Shall Live By Faith



Past > **Present** > **Future**

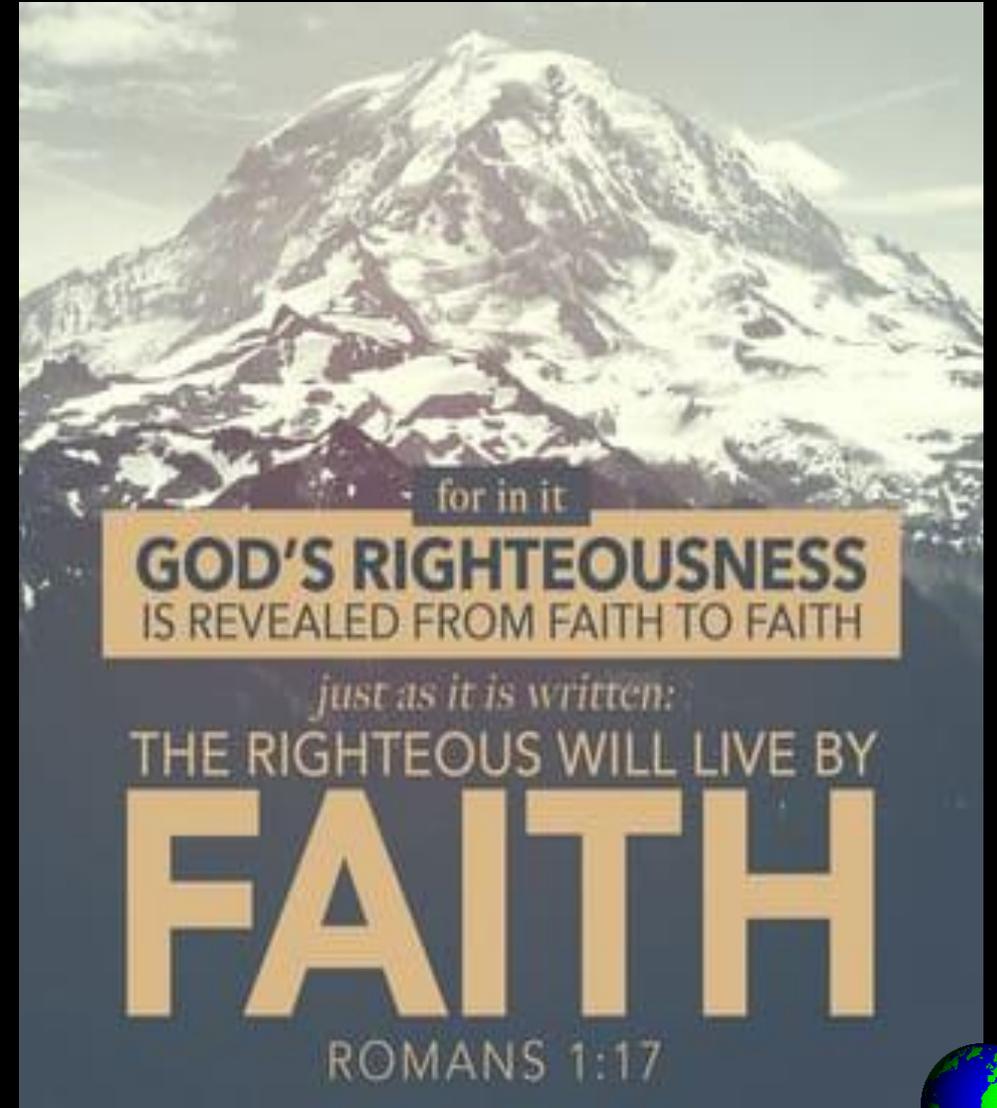


Introduction

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).

THE CLEARTEST examples of faith are offered in certain Biblical cases in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. When He walked the earth and mingled with men and women in need, every response of genuine faith was followed by expressions of divine pleasure and action. **Jesus was genuinely happy to find faith manifested.**

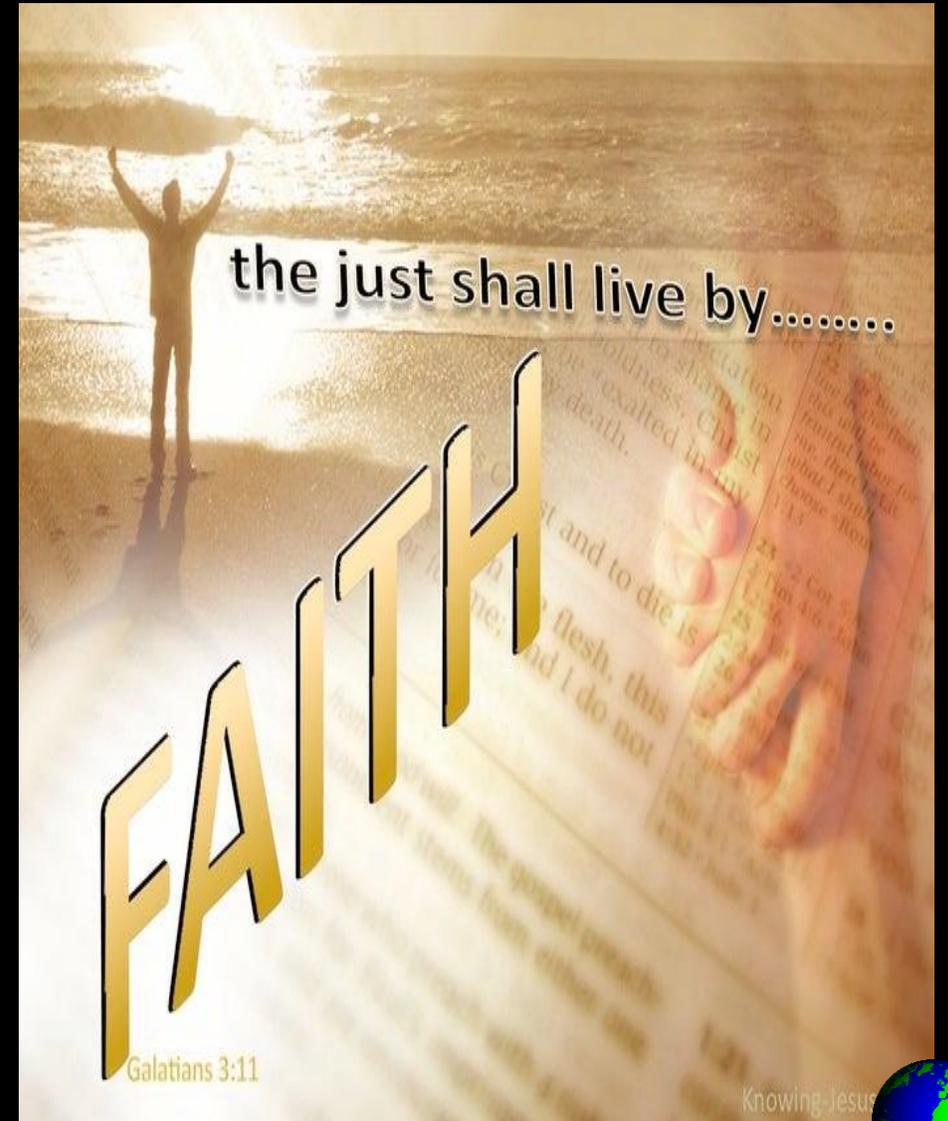
The Roman centurion came to Jesus with great concern for his sick servant. When Christ promised to come and heal the sick man, the centurion replied, "[Just] speak the word only and my servant shall be healed. . . . When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matthew 8:5-10).



The Importance of Faith

Matthew 15 tells the story of a journey Jesus and His disciples made to Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman came seeking help for her daughter who was "tormented by a devil." **She would not be put off in spite of several apparently negative responses.** She pressed her case even to the point of disbelieving what Christ said (when He was testing her) and cast her entire trust on Him as the Son of God. Seeing her earnestness and humility Jesus replied, "*O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*" (verse 28).

Jesus invariably commended people for their faith. So it was in the healing of the ruler's daughter and the woman with a flow of blood (Matthew 9: 8-22), the men who let the paralytic down through the roof (Luke 5:18-26), the repentance and forgiveness of Mary Magdalene in the house of Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50), the healing of the blind man near Jericho (Luke 18:35-43). In every case Christ went into action, without hesitation, in response to simple faith.

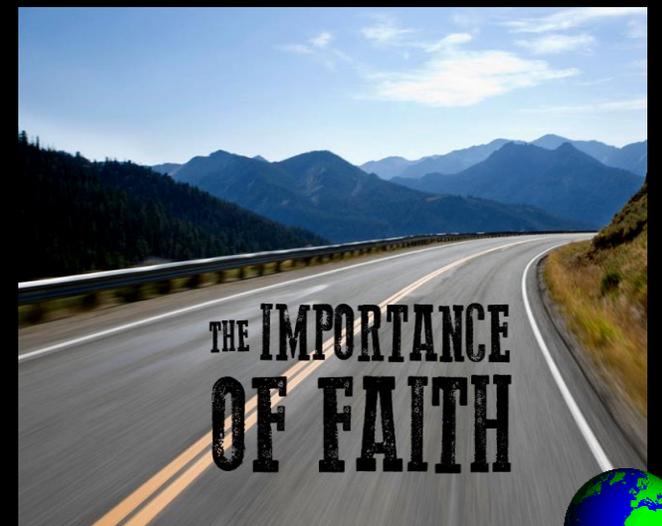
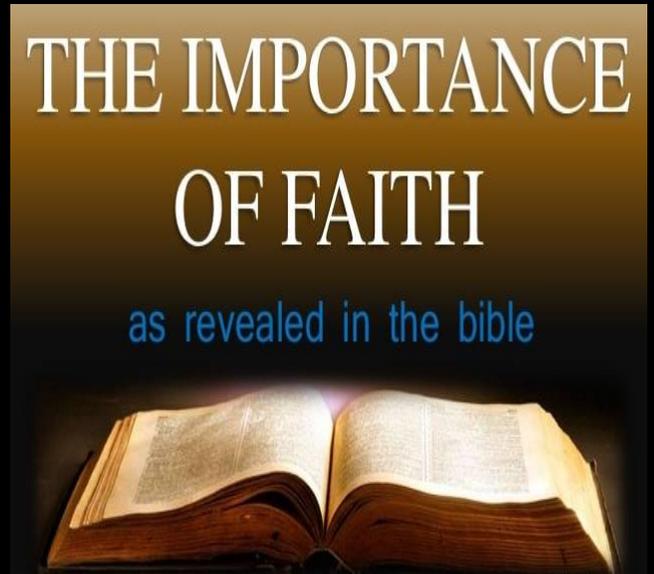


The Importance of Faith (cont'd)

The vital necessity of faith is further emphasized when Christ said, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). The implication of the question is that **genuine faith will be difficult to find.**

In this passage Jesus was not suggesting that when He comes again, men will be lacking in knowledge and in consistency in what they know. **Faith defines a certain and distinct attitude to God on man's part.** By its very nature it transcends the search for information and verification and attaches supreme value to God, to Jesus Christ, and to the Word of God. **Valuable as sound thinking and knowledge of truth are, men become Christians or believers only when they take their stand within God's saving power and righteousness and commit themselves with the whole of their person to Jesus Christ.**

"The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). **These simple, clear words do verily contain the key to life here and in the hereafter.** Where salvation and eternal life are provided by God and offered as a gift, there must be some responsive action or attitude on the sinner's part that signifies his acceptance of and commitment to it. That response is faith. Man is not thereby merely searching for knowledge, but for life. **Faith apprehends the reality of the living God. Faith links us up with God.**

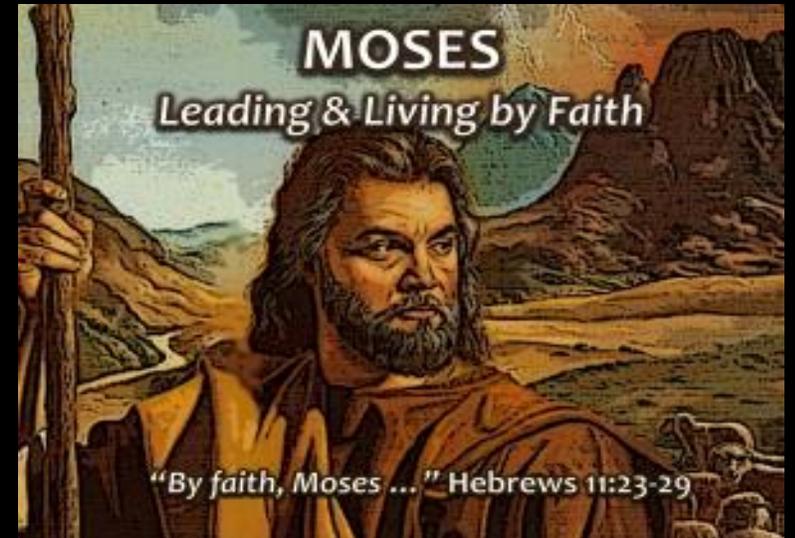


Lets look at Moses

Moses whose faith centered on Christ and cooperated with God for the realization of their divinely appointed destiny.

By faith Moses . . . refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasure of Egypt. . . By faith he forsook Egypt, . . . for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible (Hebrews 11:24-27).

Moses "endured, refused, chose, forsook" — all strong words of action involved in the meaning of living by faith. **Nowhere does the Bible say the saints are carried on beds of ease, God doing everything and man doing nothing.**



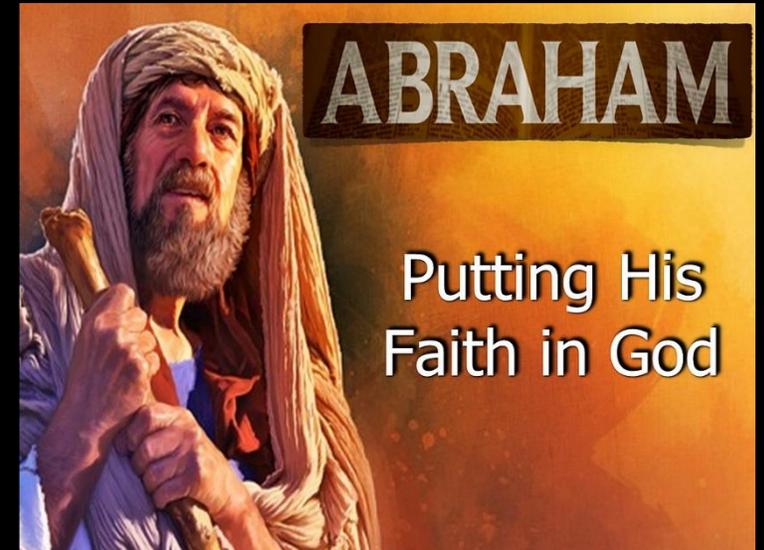
What about the father of Faith?

Perhaps no better Bible character is set forth as an example of a strong and genuine faith than Abraham. Faith expressed his fervent and unwavering trust in God.

Romans 4:1-3 - *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

Abraham's faith did not justify him or save him. **The Lord Jesus Christ was the divine reality from which his faith proceeded.** The living God was the moving cause that made his faith strong and enabled him to do those things that pleased God. The events and the decisions for God in his life are remarkable.

Hebrews 11:8-10 - *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, speaking to His listeners, said:

Matthew 6:25 - *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

26 *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

27 *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

28 *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

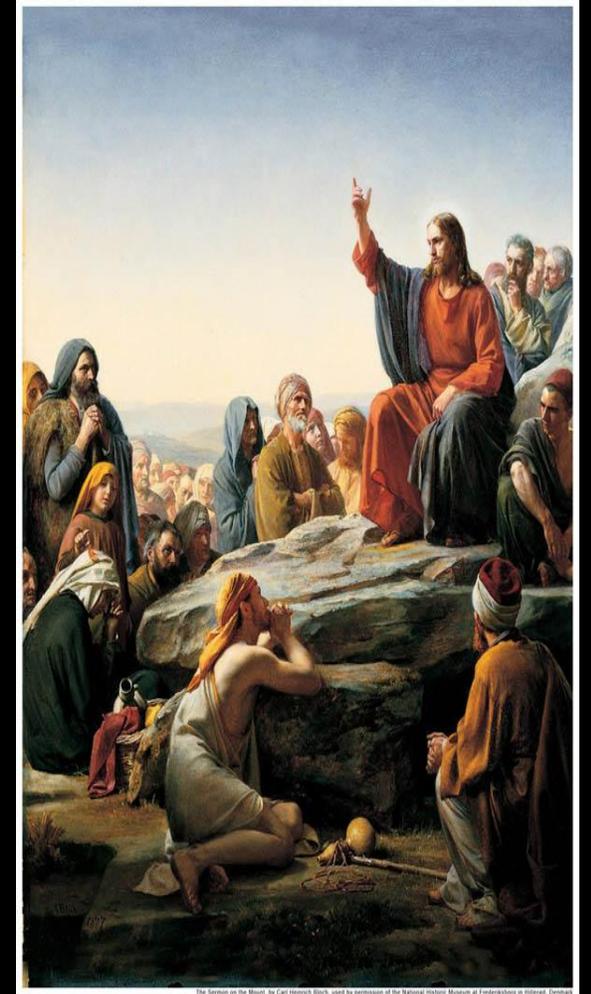
29 *And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

30 *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

31 *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

32 *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*



The Importance of Faith (cont'd)

Christ is not reproofing His listeners for their ignorance or their inconsistency regarding God's care and provision for their lives, but because of their lack of trustful reliance on Him.

Luke puts the divine action of God in Christ at the root of salvation. But this does not mean that all men are saved.

It opens the door. But if men are to enter, it is necessary that they should receive this salvation. This means that their attitude must be that of wholehearted submission to God... Jesus praised the faith of the centurion (Luke 7:9)... By contrast there is castigation for faithlessness (Luke 9:41)... Jesus... is seen as demanding from men... an attitude of wholehearted trust.

Hebrews 10:35 - *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.*

36 *For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

37 *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

38 *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

39 *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

Faith
tells me that no
matter what lies
ahead of me,
God
is already there.



The Meaning of Faith

What is the meaning and the sense in which the Scriptures use the word *faith*?

How did the great men of faith use it in the Bible?

The Greek word for faith is *pistis*, and the verb form is *pisteuo*. Neither word is ever intended to be equated with simply knowing something.

It goes further than that. It has in mind the idea of trust, reliance upon, allegiance to.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. – James 2:19

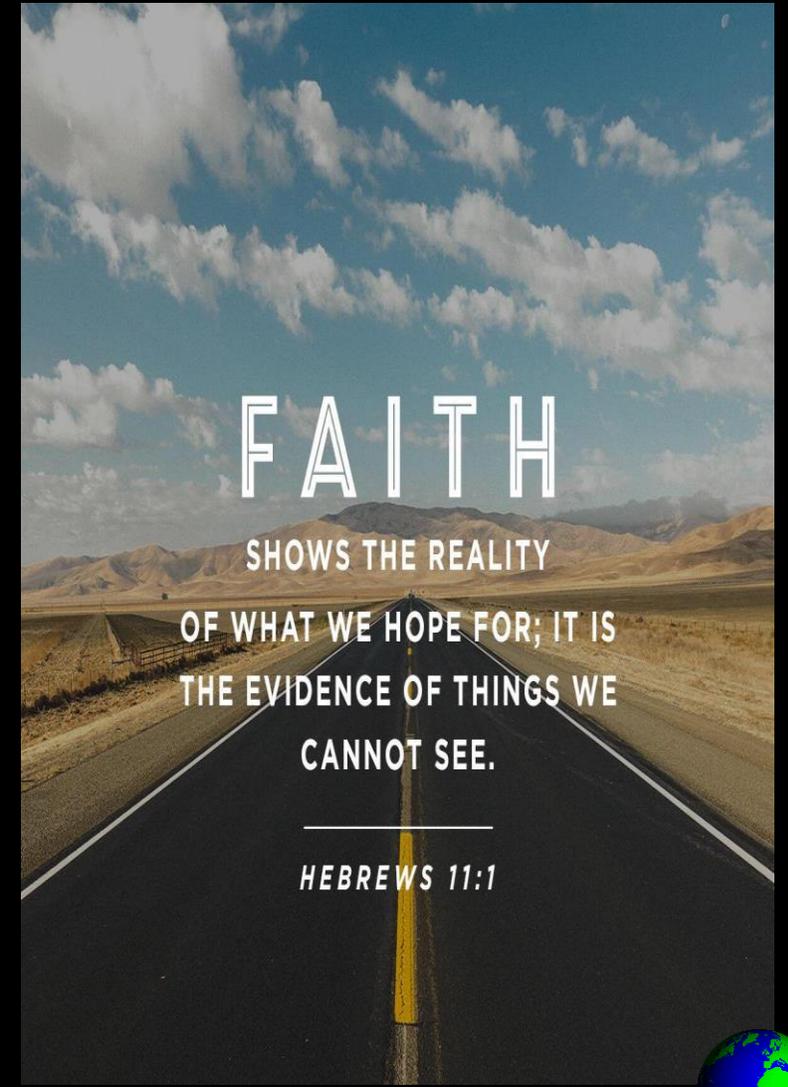
The devils know the correctness of God and His Word. **What they know in their minds actually corresponds to the eternal truth about God and what He is and has done. They know that Jesus is the Son of God. They acknowledged that several times when our Lord lived on the earth.** Rational agreement with divine realities does not mean that one has faith.



The Meaning of Faith (cont'd)

A dynamic faith involves far more than coherence, intellectual illumination, or knowing something to be true. There are many things we know to be true without placing confidence in them. We believe that man is mortal and subject to death. We believe all men are sinners and born without God in the world. We believe in the final destruction of sin and the wicked. But we do not trust in these facts, even though we acknowledge them to be true.

Faith . . . is not merely an intellectual awareness of the truth, or even an intellectual acceptance of the truth. You can have that and still be without faith. Faith means a real trusting in Him and what He has done on our behalf and for our salvation. . . . The man who has faith is the man who is no longer looking at himself, and no longer looking to himself. He no longer looks at anything he once was. . . He does not look at what he hopes to be as the result of his own efforts. He looks entirely to the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, and he rests on that alone.



The Meaning of Faith (cont'd)

Almost never does the Greek word for faith stand alone, but is connected with prepositions expressing the idea to believe on or in.

This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent (John 6:29).

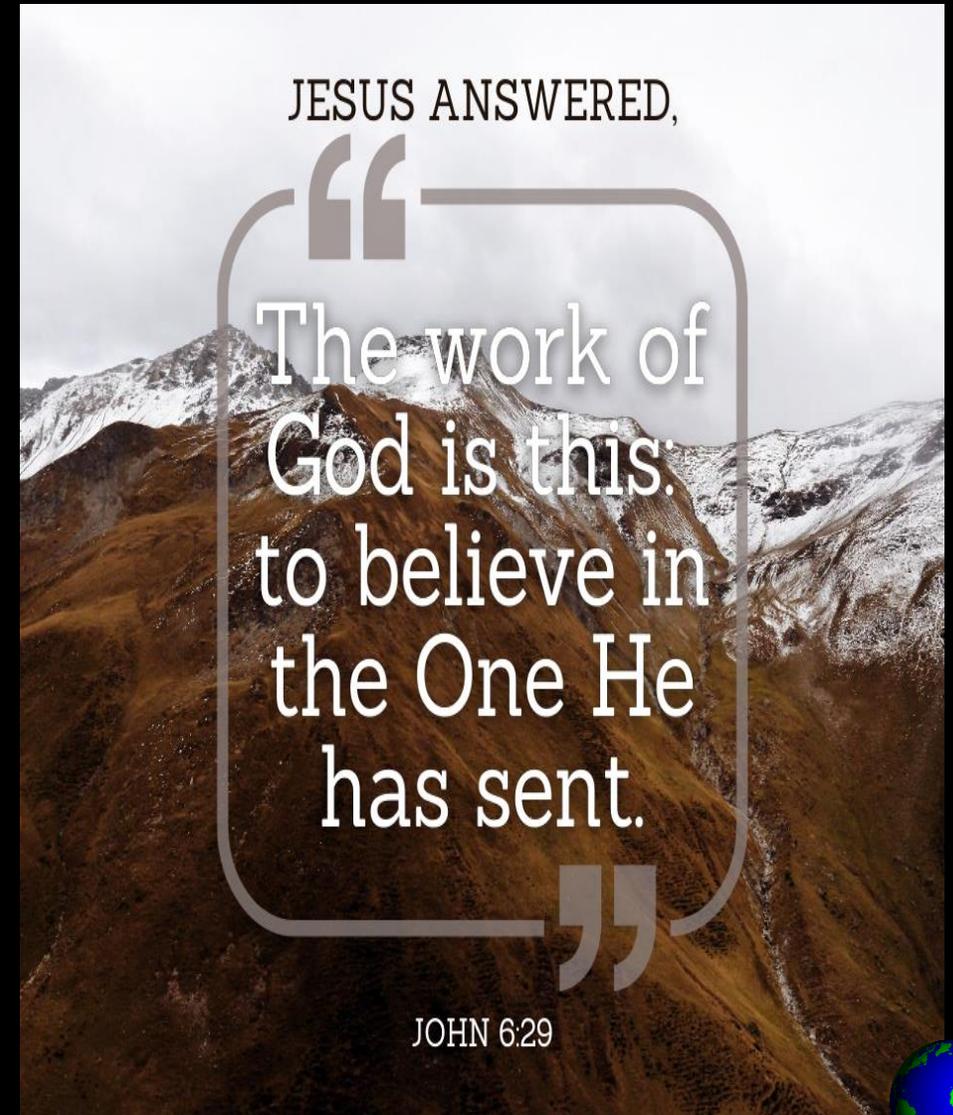
While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light (chap. 12:36).

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me (chap. 14:1).

Paul speaks of having "faith in his blood" (Romans 3:25). **"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"** (Galatians 3:26).

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:12, 13).

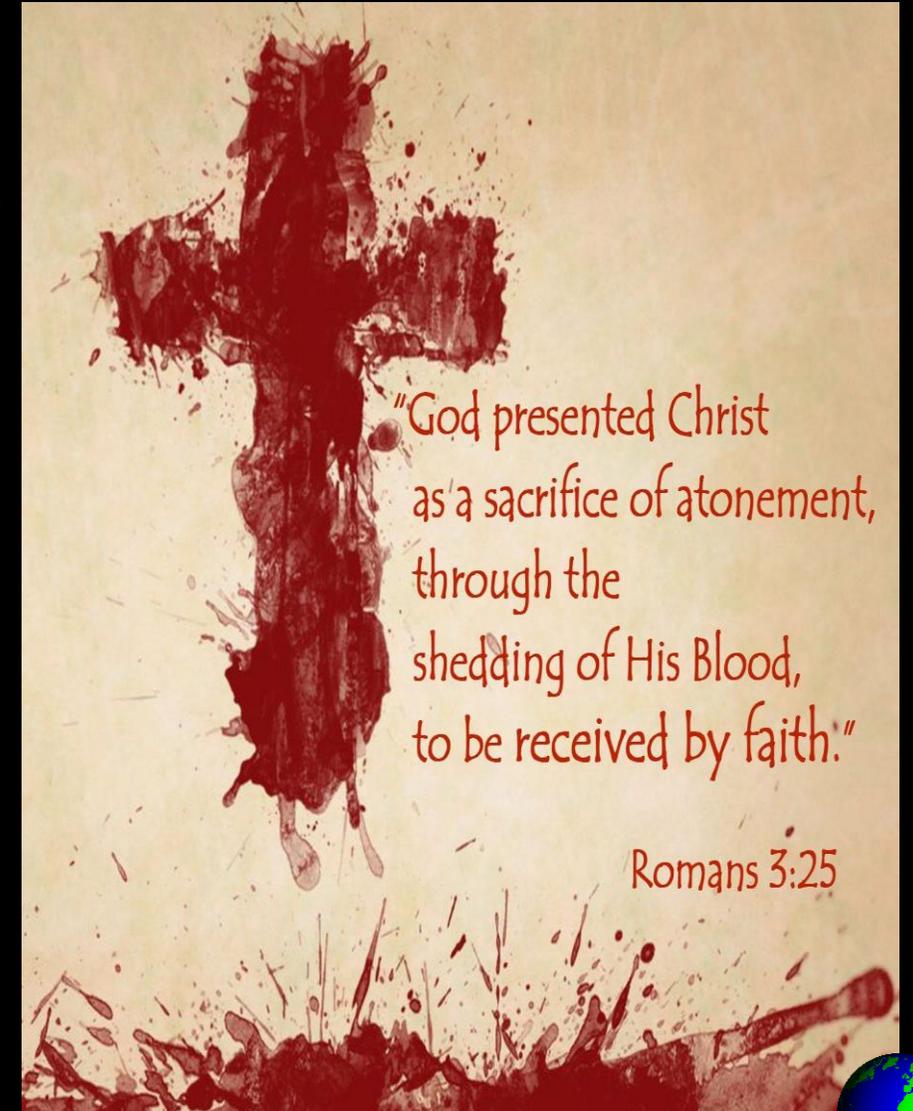
But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness (Romans 4:5).



The Meaning of Faith (cont'd)

The use of the prepositions is significant. To believe someone may mean simply to believe what he says and nothing more. To believe in or on a person means to attach great value so as to have confidence in him. Believers are to trust in the promises and in the Word of God, because the God who makes a promise and who speaks is always true. He keeps His word. The truth about this Person, the promises He makes, have come to have real meaning. They take a believer out of himself and satisfy his need for that which is trustworthy. Life is largely a search for those persons in whom we can trust completely. This very attitude of faith is no simple intellectual assent, but an act of the man's whole self.

Knowledge does not become belief until it involves action. This holds true in our relation to doctors, dentists, or any branch of services to be rendered. Knowledge that can be taken for granted is of little value until it is trusted and acted upon.



The Meaning of Faith (cont'd)

To say that faith is not merely an assent to truth is not to say that faith does not involve truth. To make the knowledge of faith anti-intellectual would be to remove it from the area of factuality in the objective world. **It is a fact that Christ is Lord; it is false to say that He is not.** And the lordship of Christ is a fact affirmed by the intellect.

Faith is personal response and surrender to the total historical claim which Jesus the Christ makes upon us.

The action of faith shifts the centre from self and self-confidence to Christ. This action or basic move in the life is not accomplished easily. **Faith makes people think hard about themselves in relation to God. It stirs the mind to the deepest concern for the right relationship to God.**

There is nothing superficial in what the New Testament calls faith, in its relation to this ultimate truth in God; . . . it is his absolute committal of himself for ever to the sin-bearing love of God for salvation. It is not simply the act of an instant, it is the attitude of a life; it is the one right thing at the moment when a man abandons himself to Christ, and it is the one thing which keeps him right with God for ever. It is just as truly the whole of Christianity subjectively as Christ is the whole of it objectively.



For you are all sons of God
through faith in

Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:26

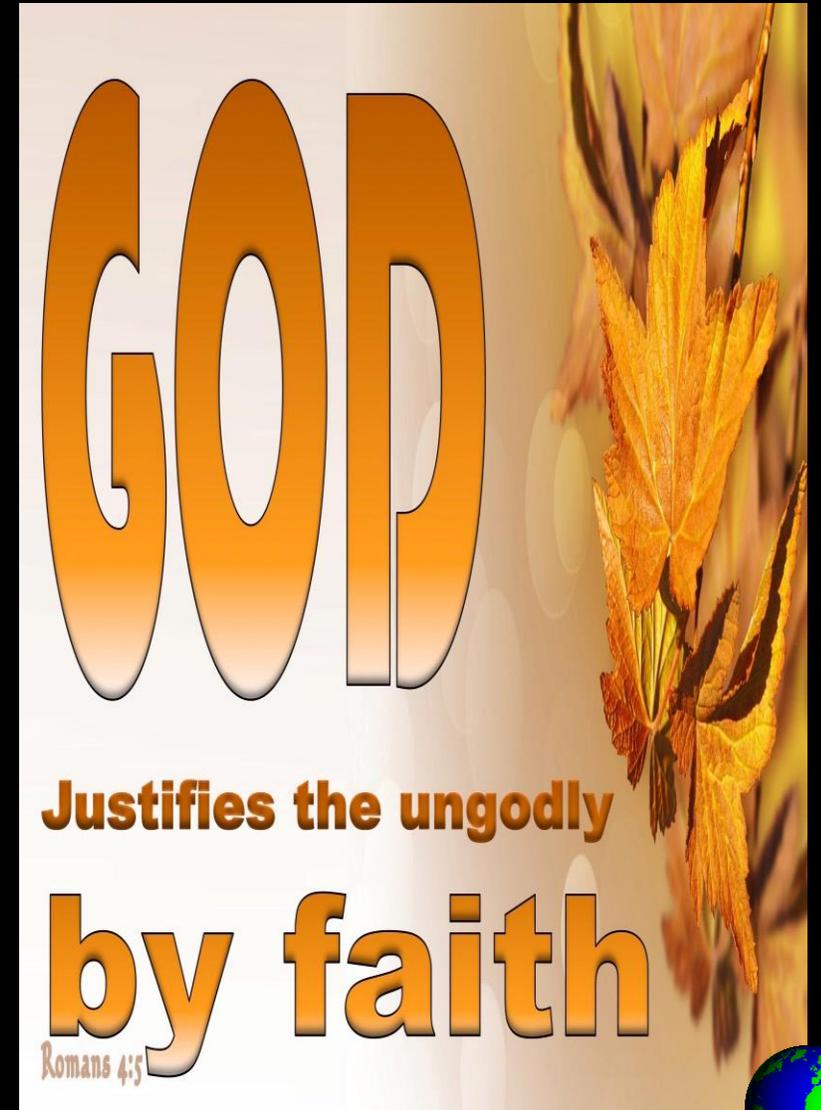


The Meaning of Faith (cont'd)

Faith earns no merit. Faith means wholehearted reliance on Christ. This reliance is no fiction. We acknowledge our total dependence on Him for salvation, for life, and for righteousness. This relationship of continued trust and commitment to God restores man to a life that God originally planned for him in the Garden of Eden. Salvation must begin at this point. It is Christ's life we choose, not ours.

Faith is never an easy acceptance of Christ. It involves a decided commitment that we want Christ, His life, and His will. When God sees this kind of faith, He treats us as righteous, according to what we have committed ourselves to be in Christ. Such a faith has already entered upon the way of righteousness and obedience to the will of God.

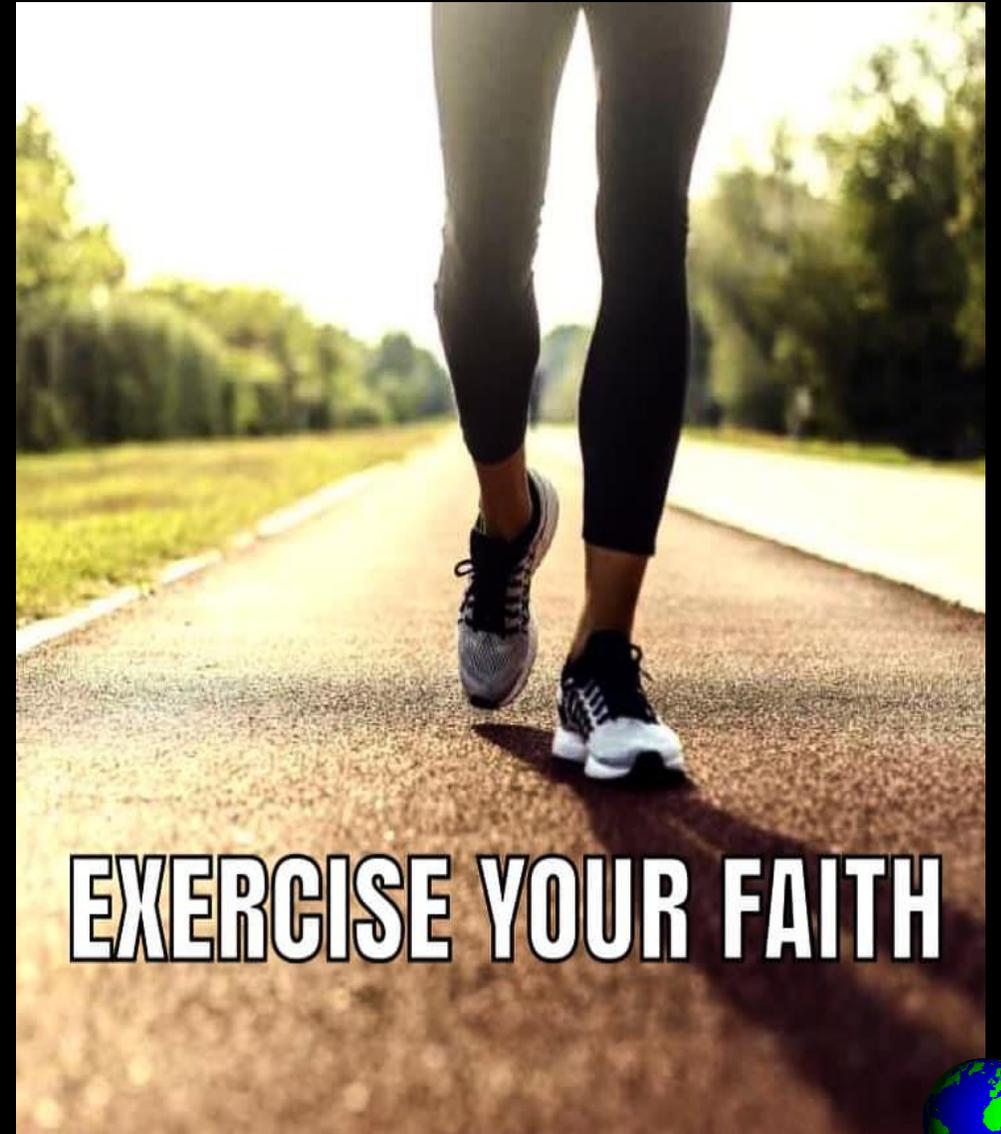
The act of faith is as much being held by God as holding Him; the power of faith is exercised as much in capitulation as in conquering—the faith that overcomes the world is capitulation to Christ's great victory.



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

Come, open your plea, says the Lord, present your case, says Jacob's King; let them come forward, these idols, let them foretell the future. Let them declare the meaning of past events that we may give our minds to it; let them predict things that are to be that we may know their outcome. Declare what will happen hereafter; then we shall know you are gods. Do what you can, good or ill, anything that may grip us with fear and awe. You cannot! You are sprung from nothing.

I ask a question and no one answers; see what empty things they are! Nothing that they do has any worth, their effigies are wind, mere nothings (Isaiah 41: 2 1-24, 28, 29).



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

Every man lives by faith to some degree. He trusts in someone. Even trust in ourselves, in our abilities, or in our friends gives some meaning and value to this life on earth. We speak of faith in the doctor, in the builder, in the pilot of a plane. Faith is based on what these men are in themselves as persons worthy of trust. Faith differs according to the nature and quality of the person. Faith directs the value of the doctor to us in terms of his ability to heal and to save life.

If we put our trust in money and possessions, which are all transitory, then we have no future. Actually no one thing or person can be trusted absolutely. Apart from trust in the true and living God everything else is relative. We live in time and are creatures of time. Only by faith in the eternal God will we belong to eternity. Faith in Jesus Christ means that life has ultimate meaning, a guarantee of life now and life in the hereafter. All other things are transitory.

FAITH NEEDS TO BE
EXERCISED, LIKE A MUSCLE.

*The more you walk in faith
the EASIER it gets.*



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

Solomon learned his lesson and put it this way:

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, . . . all is vanity. What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: . . . I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Then I looked on all the works that my hands have wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; 2:11).

This is where the fortitude of God's people has its place—*in keeping God's commands and remaining loyal to Jesus* (Revelation 14:12).



Prayer is the chief
exercise of faith.

John Calvin

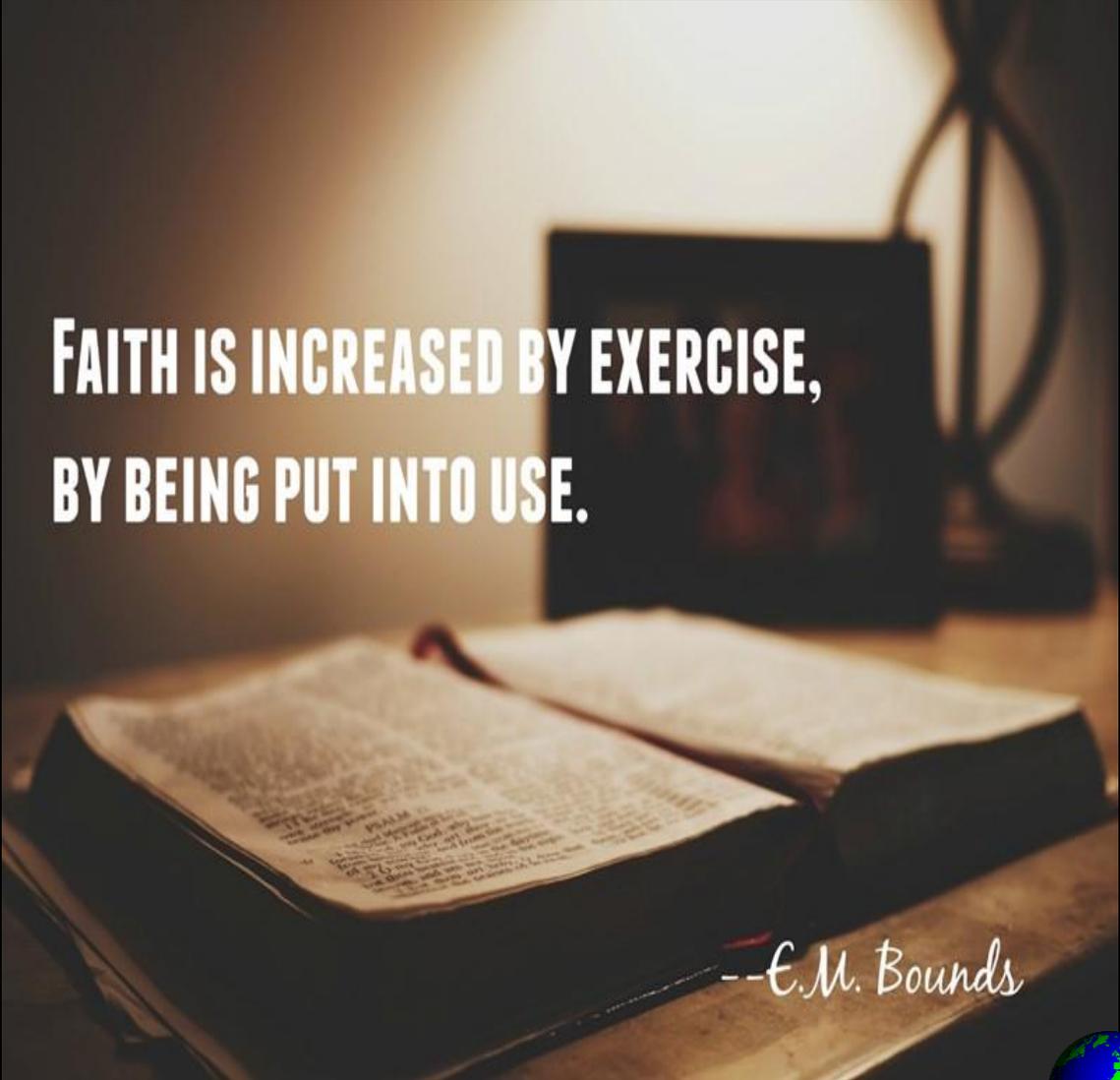
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The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

How does God win back the allegiance of sinful men? How can God once again secure man's trust, confidence, and personal allegiance? What method can God use to lead men to abandon self-dependence and self-sufficiency? Here the God of heaven emerges in His true character. He Himself invades our world in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The appeal of the gospel always asserts the priority of Jesus Christ. At the same time it presents the facts to us in terms of a divine revelation set in human history. The vital thing about the One who redeems us is that He is truth, righteousness, and love in His person. Therefore God has given man every reason for trust. Only as we trust the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ can life have meaning at all.

An open book with text overlaid. The background is a warm, dimly lit room with a lamp and a chair.

**FAITH IS INCREASED BY EXERCISE,
BY BEING PUT INTO USE.**

--E.M. Bounds



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

This love of God seen in Christ is never something we can be glib about. The repetition of religious clichés is not enough: sin, salvation, the truth, the message, finishing the work of God. They should be more sparingly used, not simply as a shallow reference vocabulary that covers indifference and neutrality. Faith grasps the reality for which these terms stand. We must make sure that our use of religious terminology is not an escape from spiritual reality.

Faith is a means to an end, not an end in itself. The end is the believer's saving relationship to Christ. Genuine faith means that the object of our faith does exist, that Jesus Christ is the living God, that our lives are directed and controlled by this supreme sovereign Power. Faith does not save. Jesus Christ does that. We trust the promise of Christ to come again and we are saved through that hope. We trust in the redemptive work of Christ; otherwise we have no assurance that our sins are forgiven and our future salvation secured. By faith we can stand the transitory nature of life and face death unafraid. We can live in security because we know that God is responsible for our lives and not we ourselves.

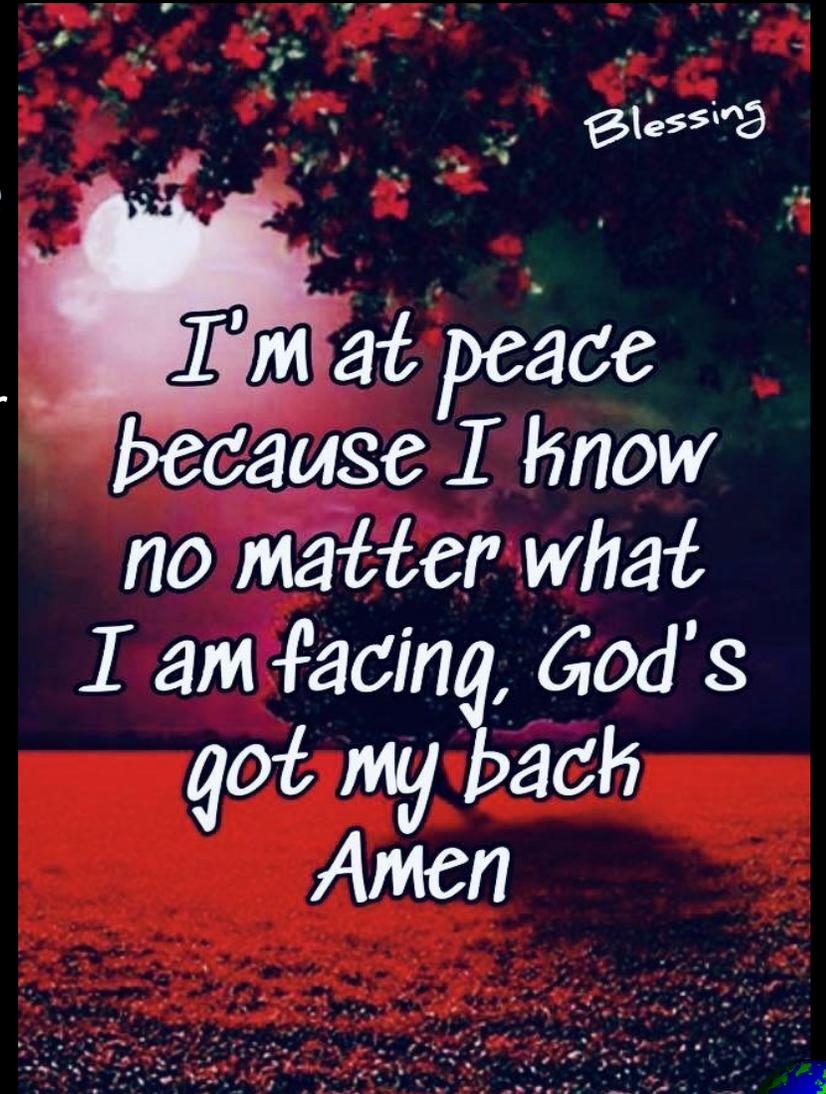
THERE IS
ONE THING
THAT
GOD
SAYS TO EVERY
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REGARDLESS OF THEIR
CIRCUMSTANCES
"TRUST ME"



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

With all this in mind, what are we to say? If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; and with this gift how can he fail to lavish upon us all he has to give? ... Then what can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, peril, or the sword? ... In spite of all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths—nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-39).

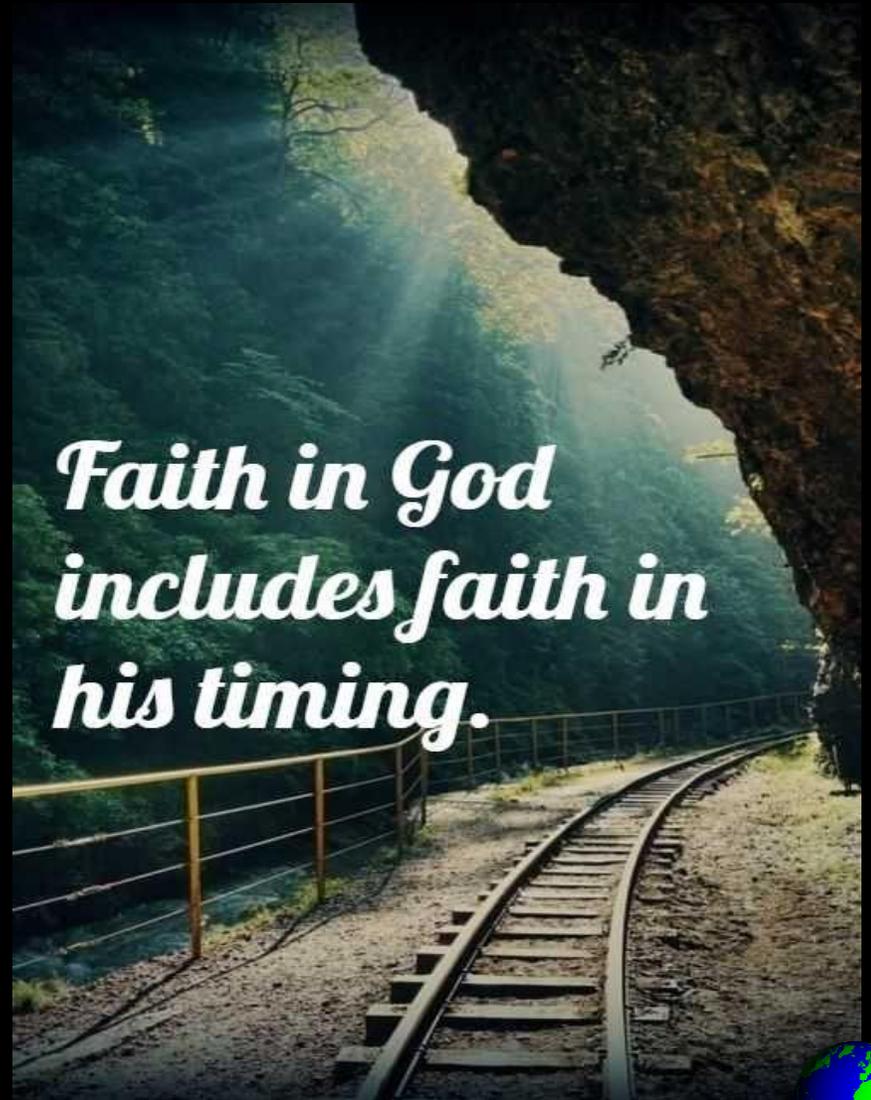
There is nothing in faith that makes it our saviour. Faith cannot remove our guilt. Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all them that believe. The justification comes through the merits of Jesus Christ. He has paid the price for the sinner's redemption. Yet it is only through faith in His blood that Jesus can justify the believer.— *The SDA Bible Commentary*, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rom. 5:1, p. 1071.



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

Faith is directed to its glorious object, Jesus Christ, without the mind being diverted in the smallest degree by a consideration of faith itself as something to congratulate oneself about. This is why the weakest and simplest person should not hesitate to trust a Saviour who is fully able to save to the uttermost. The believer should not dwell on the excellence of faith, but on the excellence of Christ our Righteousness. Where the believer has his thoughts directed to the inherent worth of faith, he might conclude that faith contributes to his salvation and has merits in itself. Faith has value only as it is grounded in Christ.

We do not believe with him, or by his help, but in him. . . And in him . . . we have our power to believe. He is not only faith's object but also faith's world. He becomes our universe that feels, and knows, and makes us what we are. Deep as the thirst for God lies in the soul, nowhere but in Christ do we have the communion that stills it. . . . The possession of God is sure for every age and soul only in Jesus Christ as its living ground.



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

It is the trick of Satan to get us occupied with ourselves instead of looking to Jesus Christ. Faith is worth nothing until it disregards the weaknesses of ourselves and others and commits us in total allegiance to the One who never fails.

A life in Christ is a life of restfulness.... **Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul's contemplation.** It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness....

To trust God in the light is nothing,
but trust him in the dark—

that is faith.



The Exercise of Faith (cont'd)

When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ. The pleasures of the world, life's cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections— to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind. Do not be misled by his devices.... We should not make self the centre and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him.... Rest in God. He is able to keep that which you have committed to Him. If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you. — *Steps to Christ*, pp. 70-72.



Personal Involvement

He who takes Christ and the Word of God seriously must face the exercise of faith in terms of his becoming personally involved. Jesus Christ, His person, and His saving work have now become a personal matter. So we sincerely ask, What must I do to be saved? How can Christ's righteousness avail for me? God actually loves me. He will receive me. The nature of Christ, the atonement, His priestly work in heaven, have meaning for us in a particular individual sense. Faith is an individual response. This was Paul's experience, as he said: *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Philippians 3:3-11).*



Personal Involvement (cont'd)

Faith is a human act, sweeping our whole life into its power, a human act that affirms in will, word, and work that Christ begins in us. Faith is decisive. And it is total. . . Faith is an authentic human action without which there is no union with Christ. Our faith is our total response to Christ's initiative.

There is always the temptation to remain distant in order to consider Biblical facts objectively without any personal involvement. Saving faith does not divest the truth of sound evidence, but it is more than some logical procedure such as we find in mathematics or scientific investigation of a problem or a case. While we must seek to make the truth of righteousness by faith as clear as possible, faith is a personal response due to the work of the Holy Spirit. We should bear in mind the scripture:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory - 1 Timothy 3:16.

BEYOND ALL QUESTION

The Mystery of Godliness is GREAT

1 Timothy 3:16

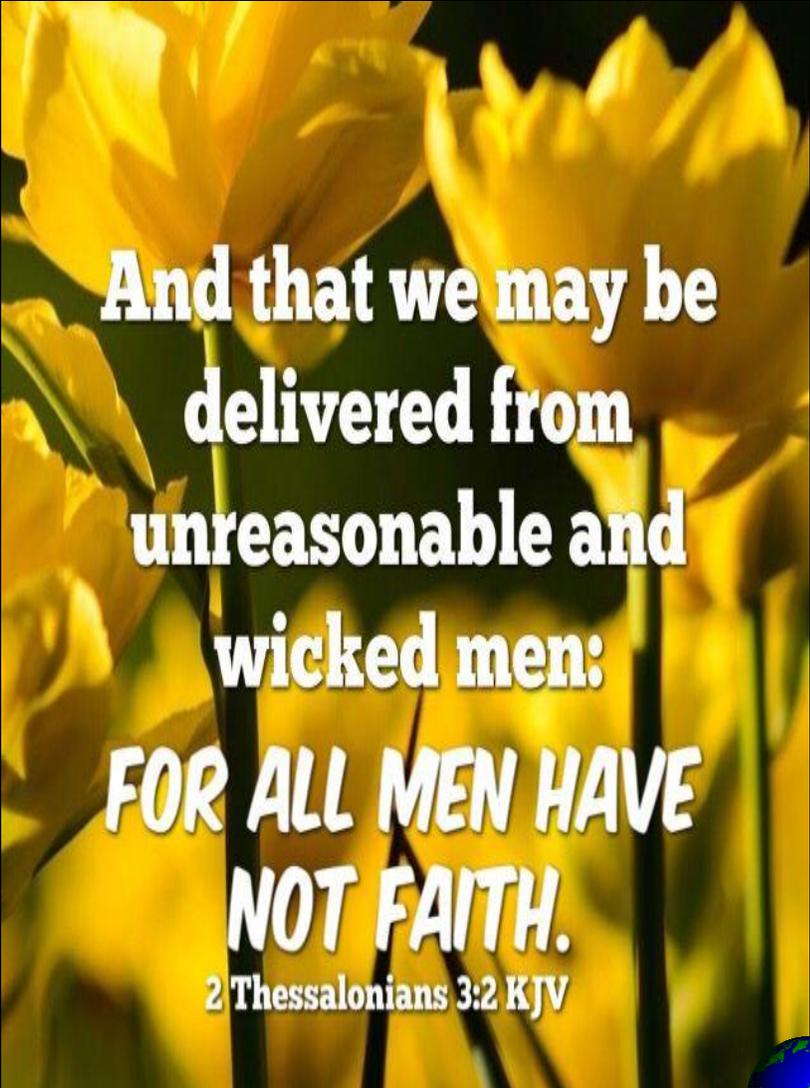
1. God was manifest in the flesh
2. He was justified in the Spirit
3. He was seen of angels
4. He was preached unto the Gentiles
5. He was believed on in the world
6. He was received up into glory

Knowing-Jesus.com



Personal Involvement (cont'd)

There is an urgency about salvation that makes it undesirable that we should keep on waiting to act until we have weighed every difficulty and every question in the delicate balance of logic. If we keep on raising questions, the necessity to exercise faith in Jesus Christ will elude us. Faith is a moral and spiritual necessity more indispensable to life than physical hunger and food. It is not worthwhile to doubt and dispute continually about the Word of God. It is not good to set an understanding of Christ within the limits of our own thinking. We must make sure that our discussion of religion is not a cover-up for the lack of spiritual reality. Granted that man's response to God cannot be blind reception. We must see and understand the truth before we can appropriate it. Christian experience cannot progress far beyond our discernment of Bible truth. However, the Word of God turns the searchlight of truth not just upon man's reason, but upon the whole man.



**And that we may be
delivered from
unreasonable and
wicked men:**

**FOR ALL MEN HAVE
NOT FAITH.**

2 Thessalonians 3:2 KJV



Personal Involvement (cont'd)

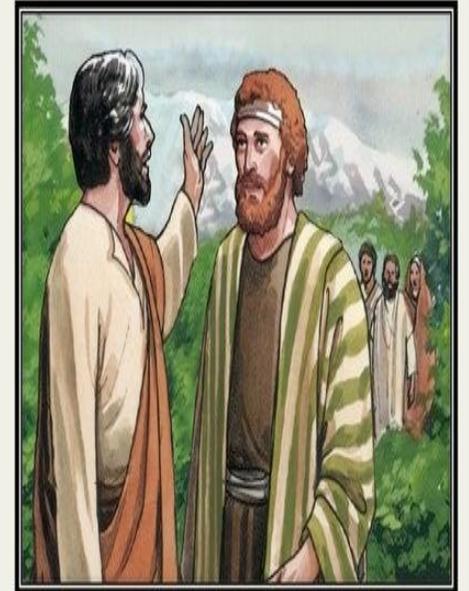
Faith means for Paul man's total surrender to God's saving act. The faith which is reckoned for righteousness is not a psychic force, or an achievement of almighty reason, or the perfection of religious virtue; it is the realization of God alone as Saviour, the one and only way of opening the door to the revelation of the one and only true object of faith.

Personal involvement brings us into the custody of this divine Person and Power. It gives the Holy Spirit admission to the whole of our lives. It takes command of us and breaks the slavery of sin and self. One cherished sin, the withholding of one part of our lives from Christ, will arrest spiritual progress, pollute spiritual insight, blind the mind, and make faith impossible.

Faith is the gift of the Holy Spirit. "All men have not faith" (2 Thessalonians 3:2). The gift of faith is never withheld from those who earnestly and sincerely seek God according to the Scriptures. Peter's confession of faith was followed by our Lord's statement: "Blessed art thou, . . . flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee" (Matthew 16:17). That is, faith does not arise by virtue of the wisdom and the natural efforts of men.

YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD

Jesus
said to him
blessed are you
Simon Bar-Jonah



flesh and blood did not reveal this to you
but My Father Who is in heaven.



Personal Involvement (cont'd)

Faith itself is not my independent work; it is the work of the Holy Spirit in my heart. Only God Himself has the power to bring my stubborn and rebellious will to the point of surrender. . . . It is when the cross of Christ has shattered our self-sufficiency, humbled our pride, and raised us again from the dust by the power of his love—only when this has been done that the Spirit of God can flow into our souls and take control of us. . . . The Spirit brings home to our hearts what Christ has done for us, and awakens that response which is faith—the Amen of the soul to God's judgment and God's mercy. . . . The Spirit creates faith, and faith receives the Spirit. Faith is always a divine gift, always a work of the Holy Spirit. . . . Faith is not conceived by flesh and blood.

Personally to desire God, to seek God, to open the mind and heart to receive God—this is faith. Not simply to believe something about Him, but to believe in Him; not simply to hold an opinion or a conclusion, but to lay hold of Christ Himself. Under the moving influence of the Holy Spirit we turn ourselves completely over to Christ. We know it to be the one supremely true thing, the one eternal reality that can change our lives.

But the
Lord
is
faithful,
Who
will
establish you,
and
guard
you
from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3



Faith and Emotionalism

It is a serious mistake to identify faith with feeling.

A looking to one's emotions or dependence on one's reason makes self the ultimate court of appeal, which is in part the original sin of all men. Obviously man's own feelings cannot create or maintain faith. Man's weakness and impotence cannot form the basis for trust in God. No mastermind of intelligence or reach of emotion can ever provide man with ultimate certainty. Man can easily fall victim either to his own limited mental ability or to his own feelings. Men are easily given to deceptions and errors both of the mind and of the heart.

This is the day for religious awakenings and great stirrings of the heart. Religious excitement presents itself in bewildering array. Here lies the peril. The ignorance and the gullibility of multitudes offer these religious fads—no matter how false their premises may be, no matter how Biblically inadequate their foundation, or how flimsy their authority—a fertile field for deception and counterfeit. Millions of people of the world will have great difficulty extricating themselves from the religious confusion unless their faith is intelligent, moral, and spiritually grounded in the Word of God.

Emotionalism:

A Threat to True Faith and Worship

Emotionalism Is A Current Threat

1. To the authority of Scripture.
2. To the purity and faithfulness of local churches.
3. To true spirituality.



Faith and Emotionalism (cont'd)

There is great danger that some of the religious revivals that push people into abnormal excitement will result in verdicts rendered against the truth, which could have been avoided had each person held himself personally and intelligently and morally responsible to the revealed Word of God. Under the plausible pretence of having an ecstatic encounter with the supernatural, men err from the path of righteousness and from obedience to His Word.

Manifestations on a grand scale are appearing in some of the religious revivals, which threaten the churches by a deceptive counterfeit. The spiritual problems and needs of our time cry out for a message that will not only help men and women recognize the need for enlightened minds on the truth of God but will stabilize men's moral conduct and lead the life along the path of divine truth.

Emotionalism:

A Threat to True Faith and Worship

1. Substituting feelings for faith
2. Subjective approach to religion
3. "Personal Encounters" over what Bible says
4. Enthusiasm without orderliness
5. Zeal without knowledge
6. Super-charged emotional appeals.



Faith and Emotionalism (cont'd)

Faith that is founded on that which is divinely true is ageless and changeless. To the man of truth faith is no blind leader of the blind. He has a fine receptiveness for the truth of God's Word. His mental and spiritual vision is clear, and his faith is based on divine realities. Man's aspirations after God cannot be satisfied or his mind at peace unless confidence be reposed both in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and in His Holy Word. Men are in peril who claim to have an encounter with God, yet who fail to submit the mind and the life to the clear teaching and guidance of the Bible.

Fellowship with God is not a subjective disturbance that must be artificially aroused at intervals. It is impossible to experience Christ unless we understand and appreciate that such terms as *forgiveness, repentance, justification, the new birth, and sanctification* have a distinctive personal meaning for us, experienced in the whole of our lives.

Any effort to push a man over the brink emotionally is deceptive. We must not seek to lure people with a false bait. Faith is not an emotional feeling that has to be whipped up. Any playing on man's emotions is destructive to faith. Sensationalism is a bad thing. We must not degrade our relationship to Christ to the level of emotional excitement or spirit excitation.

Emotionalism:

A Threat to True Faith and Worship

Emotion: 1. A complex and usually strong subjective response, as love or fear. 2. A state of agitation or disturbance. 3. The part of the consciousness that involves feeling or sensibility.

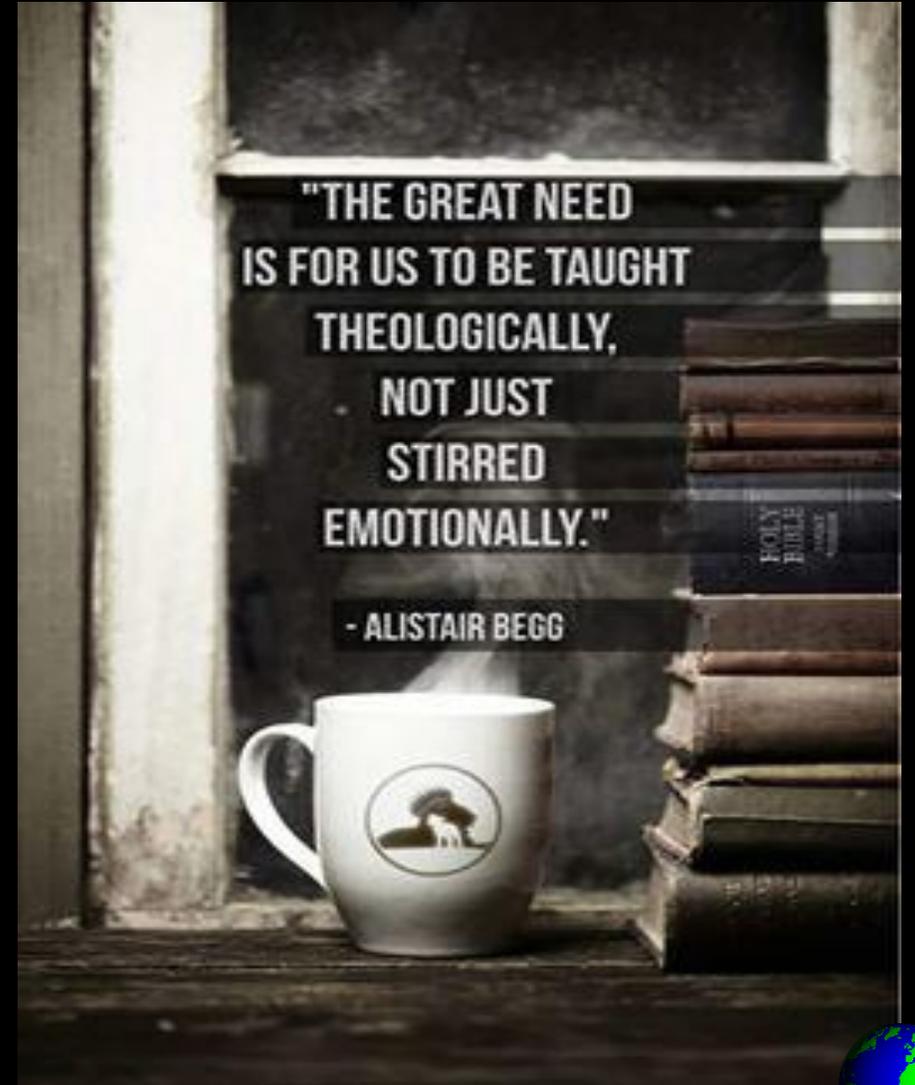
VS.

Emotionalism: The cultivation of the superficial emotions; the tendency to yield to the emotions or to exalt the emotions; to view matters more from the standpoint of feelings than of reason or morals, and undue display.



Faith and Emotionalism (cont'd)

Multitudes are being deceived by offers of spiritistic encounters with the supernatural. Because one is beside himself with some form of religious ecstasy does not mean that he has met the Lord Jesus Christ. Pagan peoples and religions offer the same kind of wild religious entertainment. There is not a religion in the world that is without this kind of spirit manifestation. The history of world religions gives lurid insight into the claims that one can experience the supernatural. Today millions are carried away by the sensational in religion. At the bottom of it all there lurks the temptation to believe that genuine faith in God as taught in the Bible does not belong here at all. Today the claim to spiritual power of righteousness by faith in Christ is being silenced by thrills of the flesh and emotions that soar in irrational music, that laugh and shout and clap and stamp, with the idea that God is there.



Faith and Emotionalism (cont'd)

Christ moved among men with humility, meekness, dignity, reverence, and majesty. **How little of the loud and the sensational there was in the ministry of Jesus Christ.** In the Scriptures all manifestations of the presence of God immediately produced great awe and quietness in the hearts of those present.

The gifts of the Spirit and the presence of God are so profound and so delicate that there is no loss of self-control. The presence of Christ in the life knows nothing of an excitement that departs from moral purity and good works. Faith in Christ and in His Word never exalts the devotees to the clouds where men are exempt from obedience to the law of God and beyond the claims of the Ten Commandments. True faith absolves no one from the operation of a sound mind in harmony with truth. Faith that holds fellowship with Christ is no lashing of the mind into frenzy. True faith refrains from every manifestation that jeopardizes the soundness of mind and life.

EMOTIONALISM

VI. SYMPTOMS OF EMOTIONALISM

- A. Profess great emotional satisfaction, yet pay less attention to the details of God's word (1 Cor. 4:6; 14:37, 26b).**
- B. Tendency to hinder, shun & oppose those who emphasize Truth (1 Kgs 22:11, 24; Jude 19).**
- C. Make excuses for emotional displays:
"I can't help it."
"The Spirit was leading me."
(Titus 2:4; Mt. 5:43-48; 1 Cor. 14:32-33)**



Faith and Emotionalism (cont'd)

The alternative to this transportation into ecstasy is not Luke warmness and spiritual indifference. The Holy Spirit kindles the mind and makes the Word of God come alive. It makes man hungry for the righteousness of Christ, with a passion to save the lost. The tongues of men become instruments of God in proclaiming and witnessing to the wonders of God's love and transforming power.

The peace of God that passes all understanding keeps life in balance and fills the inner man with lasting joy in contrast with an external hilarity of the moment. There is no exaggerated stimulus to emotional indulgence, but a manifestation of heaven's love, joy, and peace. These fruits of the Spirit are a perennial experience. The man of faith in Christ, in the superiority of heavenly truths, experiences an aroused activity of the mind where all is uplifted and "all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable" fills the mind and the life (Philippians 4: 8).

The modern church is producing passionate people with empty heads who love the Jesus they don't know very well.

Voddie Baucham

Repost @poppafrank "You worship what you do not know..." --John 4:22 ESV - - - theologyquotes voddiebaucham



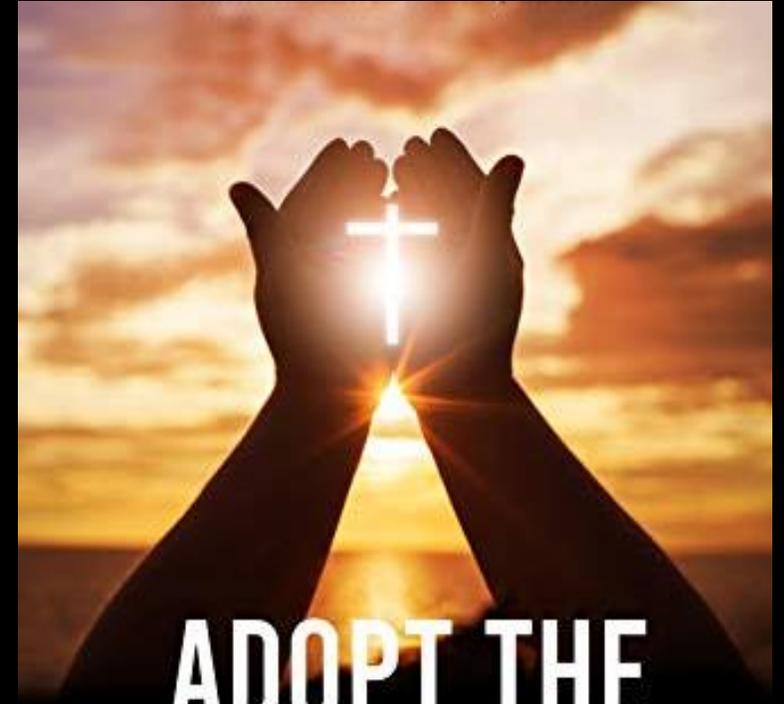
"Let This Mind Be in You"

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. – [Philippians 2:5-8](#)

The difficulty in exercising faith is not upon the side of God. No sinner is ever more eager for righteousness than his Redeemer is to give it to him. No desire to repent of sin on the part of man ever exceeded the eagerness of God to meet man with complete forgiveness and the saving righteousness of Christ.

Christ Himself showed us the way. In His human life on earth, our Lord lived by faith in His Father. He said: "I can of mine own self do nothing" ([John 5:29](#)). **He exhorted men:** "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." ([Matthew 11:29](#)).

Since Christ in His perfect life reveals this to be the true attitude of faith and dependence on the Father, how much more do unrighteous men need to have this same attitude. Christ spoke to this point in the Sermon on the Mount.



**ADOPT THE
JESUS MINDSET**

LET THIS MIND
BE IN YOU...

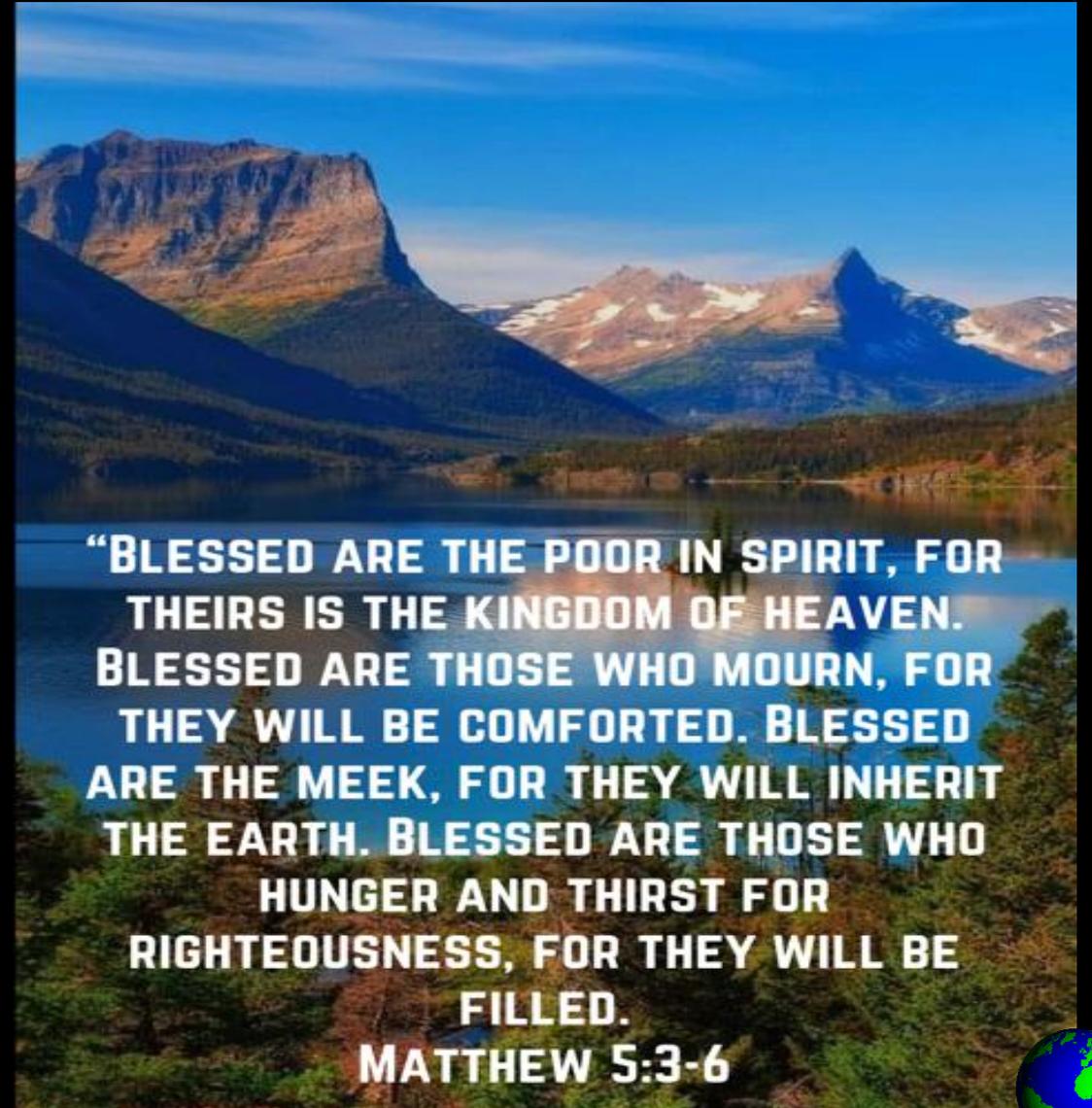


Let This Mind Be in You (cont'd)

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. – Matthew 5:3-6

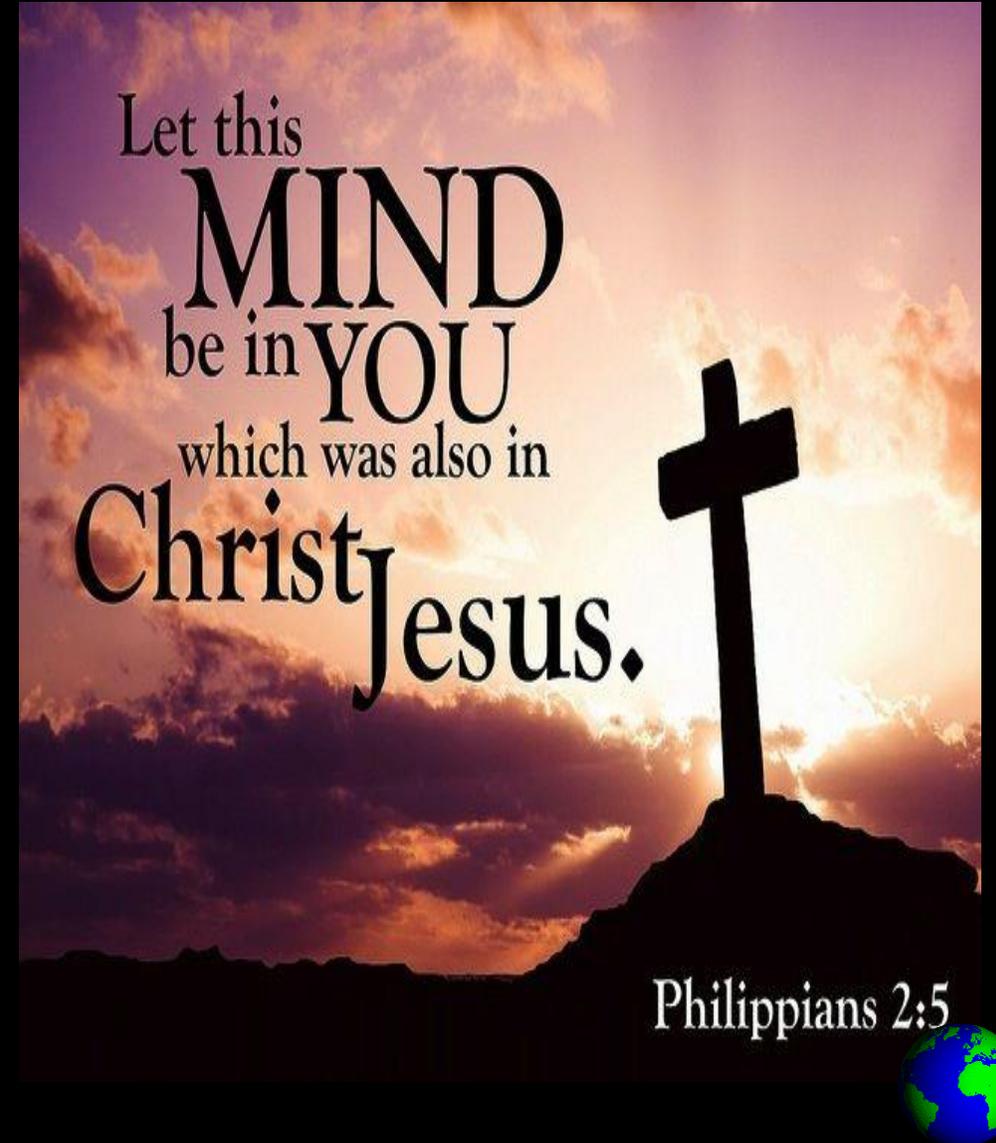
These words speak of the mind that we must possess if we are to exercise true faith. They speak of the bankruptcy of the human heart because of sin and pride. He who hungers and thirsts after righteousness confesses his lack of that righteousness that can be supplied only from beyond himself. He who is poor in spirit and who knows his need is the man who is ready to receive help from God. He who is meek does not assume that his own mind is the source of great wisdom, that he can trust in himself.



Let This Mind Be in You (cont'd)

Faith fares badly by the concentration upon oneself, where the emphasis has shifted from sufficiency in God to self-sufficiency. Men easily come to depend upon themselves. **The world of human achievement breathes the desire for self-exaltation.**

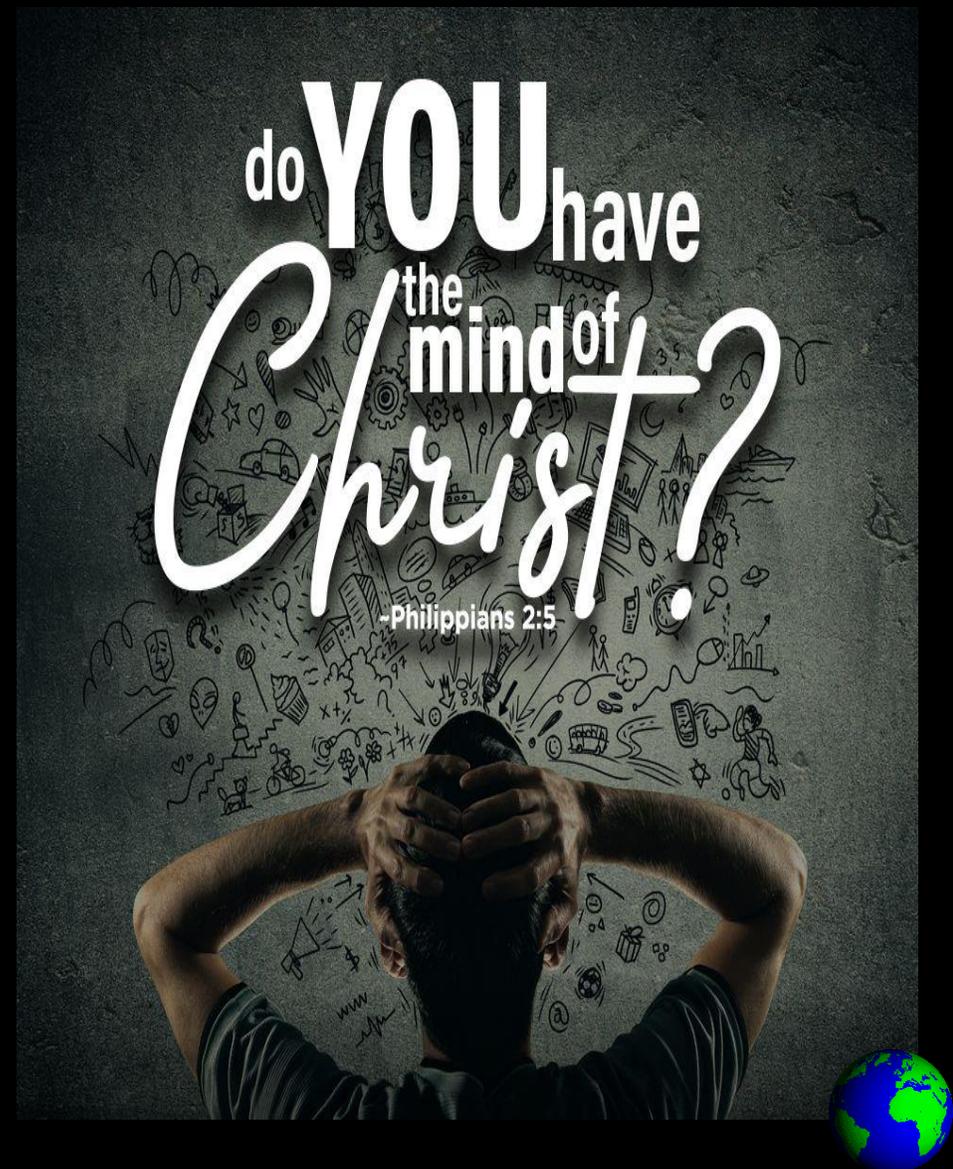
Even in the church men inadvertently come to believe that progress in the cause of God is achieved by human methods: **by programs, by policies, by human ingenuity and agency without depending upon the Holy Spirit.** The fatal mistake is to believe that the church can accomplish the work of God by the wisdom of men rather than by the regenerating, sanctifying, and transforming power of God.



Let This Mind Be in You (cont'd)

True faith in God leads away from the autonomy of man. **To be more sure of ourselves than we are of Jesus Christ is the height of folly.** Righteousness by faith excludes every jot and tittle of self-esteem and self-assertion, every thread of pride. **In these sophisticated times we have fallen heir to a complicated system both in theological thought and in church life, which has to be bolstered up with all kinds of activities and techniques to impress people. Consequently, the emphasis can easily shift to ourselves.**

No airtight theological system and no expertise in human methods can give us a triumphant faith. Difficulties arise when, as professed Christians, we set up an ecclesiastical pattern and practice and then grow complacent and self-righteous by virtue of our conformity to it. **It is imperative to make faith in Christ attractive, irresistible, and the opportunity for the highest adventures in Christian living, expressive in sacrificial service for the sake of Christ. Our faith in Christ must so involve us with God that we venture all we have for the sake of spiritual victory and the triumph of the kingdom of God.**

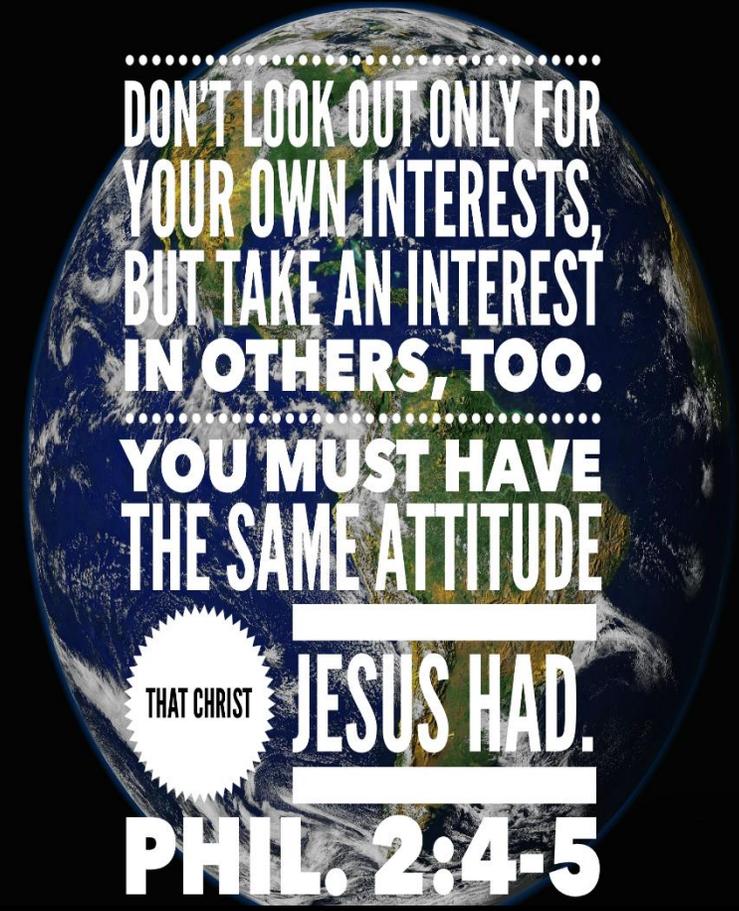


Let This Mind Be in You (cont'd)

We must be absolutely honest when facing the claims of Christ upon the whole of our lives. We must reject all practices in life, in business, in pleasure that leave Jesus Christ out of the domain of our thinking and living. Once the professed Christian refuses to open himself entirely to Christ, the integrity of the person begins to crumble. The peril of self-deception sets in. Back of most of our spiritual failures is our unwillingness to face the truth about ourselves in the presence of Christ.

No profession of faith will last unless we permit Christ to cleanse the innermost parts of our souls. To seek to hide our secret faults and selfishness from Christ ultimately spells disaster.

The answer to all our rationalizations about ourselves, to our superficiality, must be a *life*, not merely a series of religious propositions. Faith that works by love enables us to face ourselves as we are. We accept the gift of God. We come with no false claims. We let Christ break through with His purity, His unselfishness, His power to cleanse, His truth. Such a faith unites us with that divine power that makes us truly Christian before God and man.

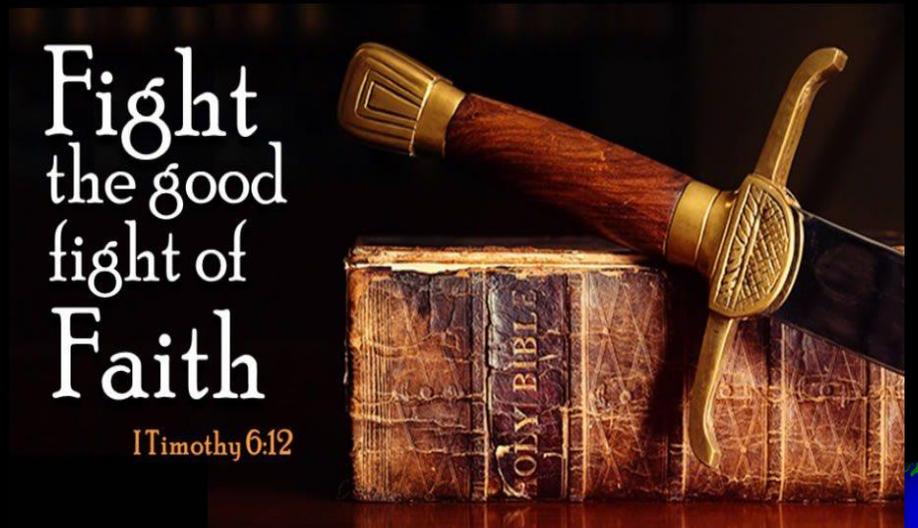


Need to fight the Fight of Faith

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. – 1 Timothy 6:12

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

There is peril in the phrase "only believe" if one imagines that salvation involves an easy going attitude, leaving people unaware that God calls for the whole of their lives, that since Christ has done all, the Christian needs to do nothing.



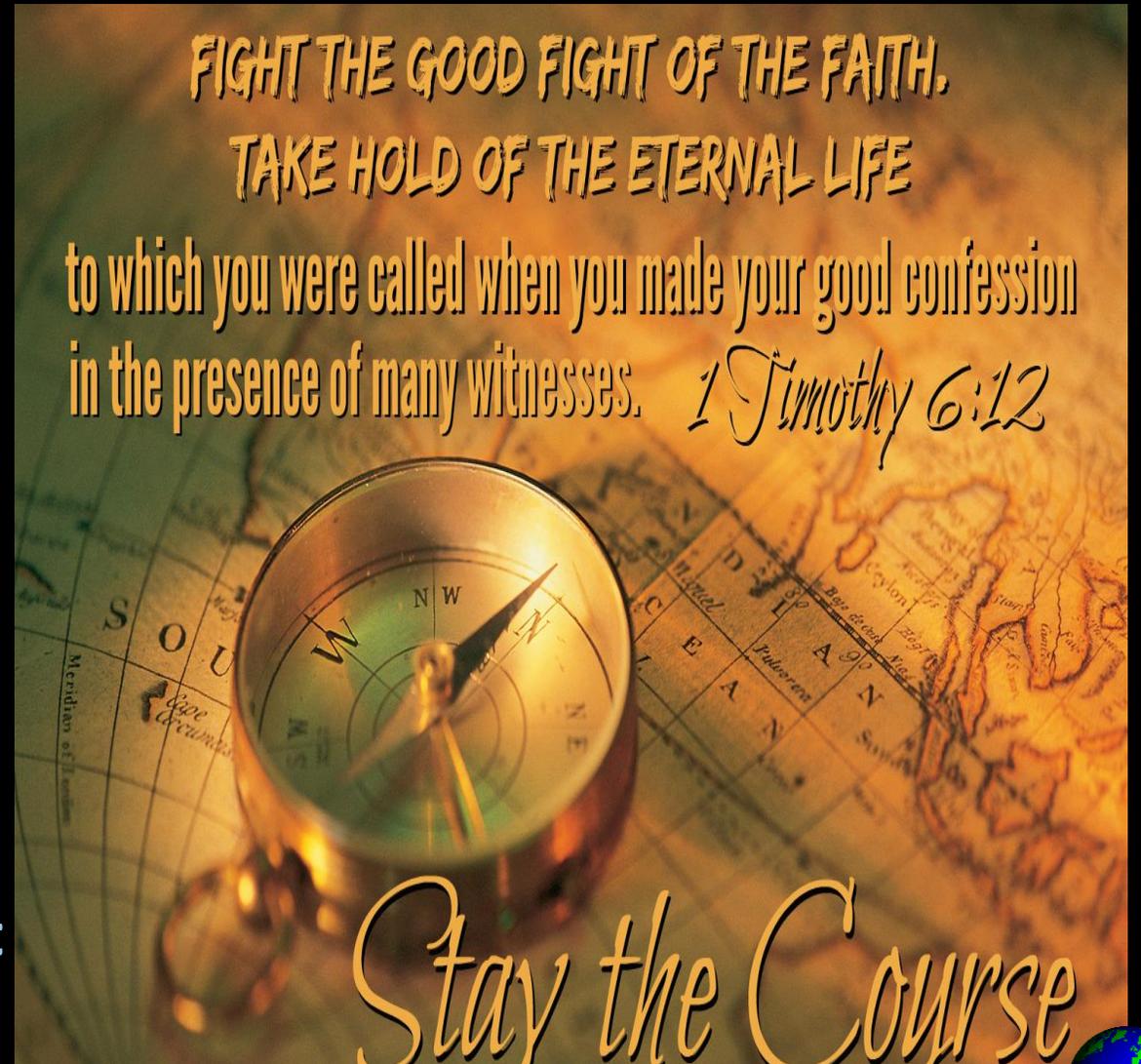
The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church.... We supposed that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing.

Costly grace . . . is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. . . .

- It is costly grace because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.
- It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner.

The only man who has the right to say that he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ.



The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

A vital faith is not a tense effort to believe, holding a strenuous attitude of mind. **Trusting God is exactly the opposite of that.** Faith relinquishes the tense responsibility we feel for ourselves and depends on Christ "*who . . . is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption*" (1 Corinthians 1:30). **Christians who exert every effort to have faith inevitably fail because they are looking to themselves rather than to Jesus Christ. Faith does not come by sheer will power, nor by exhortations to exercise faith.**

Yet the Bible speaks of the "fight of faith," the conflict that goes on in the life of the Christian.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. – Galatians 5:16-18



The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

The fight of faith centres in the battle for the control of the mind, between the spiritual forces of light and the spiritual forces of darkness.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. – Romans 8:5-6

Because of previous tendencies and habits of sin, man does not easily respond to God. Faith moves within the salvation and the spiritual power provided by God. But it is not always easy to stay within these areas. Living a godly life is not free from conflict.

The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.— *Steps to Christ, p. 43*



So I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not gratify the
desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16



The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

We live in and from our minds. This is the person we actually are. "He [God] will work by His Spirit through the mind He has put in man." — *Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 725.*

• What kind of mind does God work through? Faith in Christ . . . calls for an acknowledgment of the enlightened intellect controlled by a heart that can discern and appreciate the heavenly treasure. — *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 112.*

The issue here is this: It is a fight to keep an enlightened intellect on the Word of God, and a heart that can discern and appreciate the things of God. To develop and possess such a mind determines one's ability to exercise and to live by faith.

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

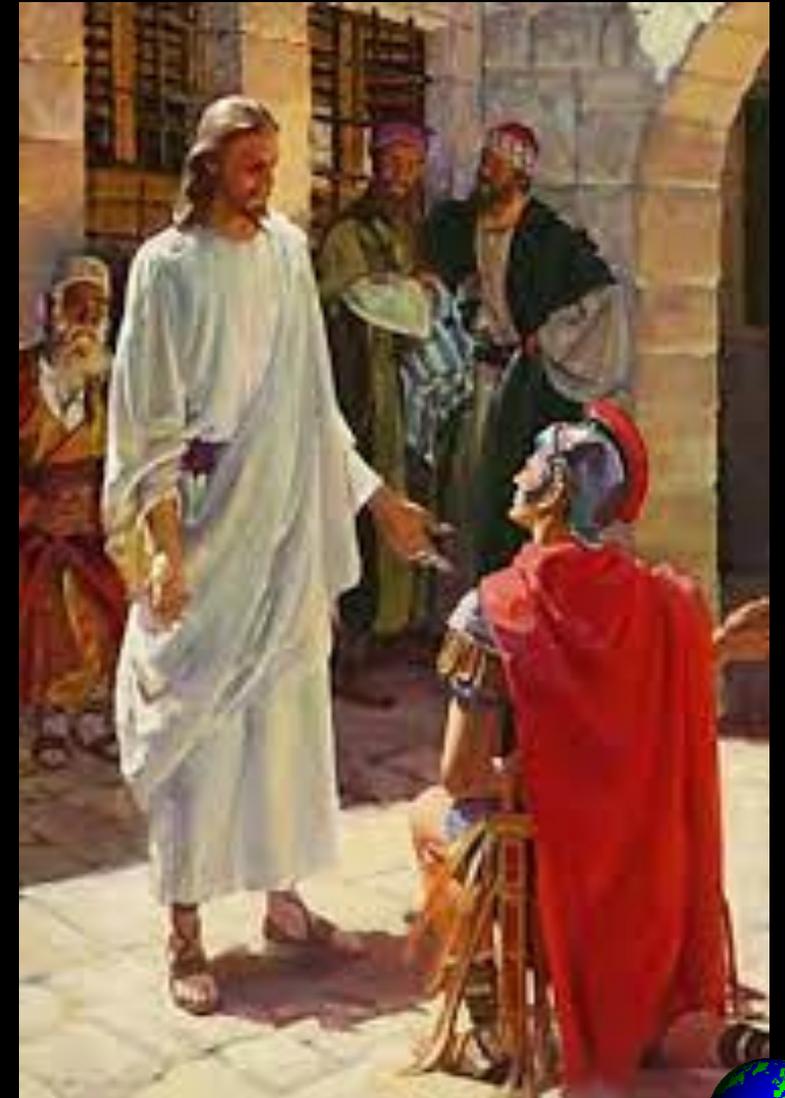


The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

The revelation of God's truth in the Bible is God's recognition and compliment to the believer upon whom God has endowed his noblest mental possibilities and moral response. Christians unquestionably must affirm of themselves a faith that rests on the Word of God, working through a mind that is sensitive to the will of God. **Faith does not stand alone. It is produced by the Word quickened by the Spirit.**

"Go, your son lives." The man believed what Jesus told him and went. "Because you say so I will let down the nets" said Peter. "just say the word" says the Roman captain, and he believed. (See John 4:50; Luke 5:5; Matthew 8:8.)

No man will reach heaven by inaction. The indifferent and the wilfully blind must be awakened and roused up in order to be saved and changed. Faith is an act of the mind, an act of the whole person that carries the whole of life with it. It is the most vital and vigorous activity that can be conceived of.



The Fight of Faith (cont'd)

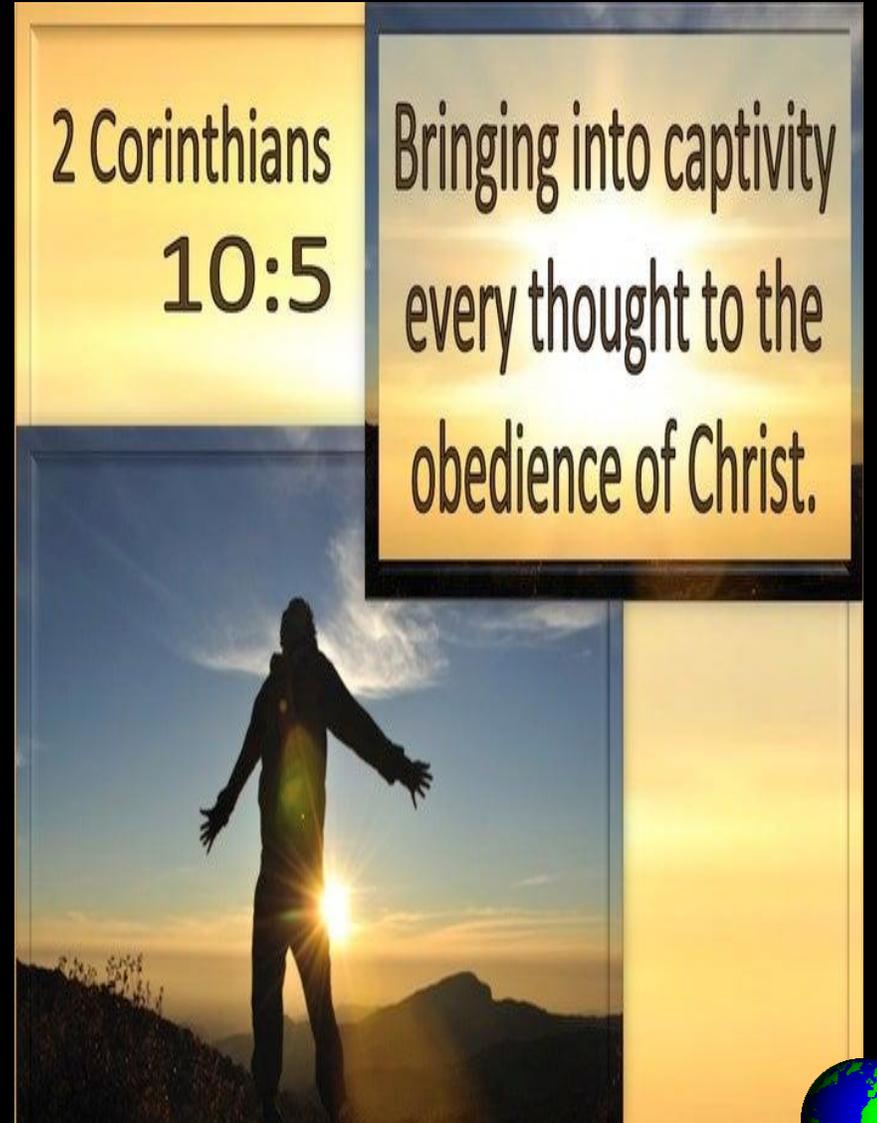
The exercising of the mind unto godliness is no simple or easy matter. **The fight of faith involves staying alert to the deep movings of God, of His truth, and of the Holy Spirit. It is not easy to stay spiritually alert these days.** The fight of faith means that we no longer live our lives on the shallow surface of things.

The mind occupied with commonplace matters only, becomes dwarfed and enfeebled— *Education* , p 124.

The reason it is so difficult for men and women to live religious lives is because they do not exercise the mind unto godliness. **It is trained to run in the opposite direction.** Unless the mind is constantly exercised in obtaining spiritual knowledge and in seeking to understand the mysteries of godliness, it is incapable of appreciating eternal things because it has no experience in that direction. **This is the reason why nearly all consider it uphill business to serve the Lord.**— *Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 189.

2 Corinthians
10:5

Bringing into captivity
every thought to the
obedience of Christ.



Summary and Conclusion

Thus faith requires an intelligent, moral responsibility to God's Word. Faith never asks in callous indifference: What is truth? Men are in great peril when they claim to believe God and His Son Jesus Christ while trying to exclude their lives from the moral and spiritual claims of God. Says the apostle John: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" - 1 John 5:4

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law - Romans 3:31

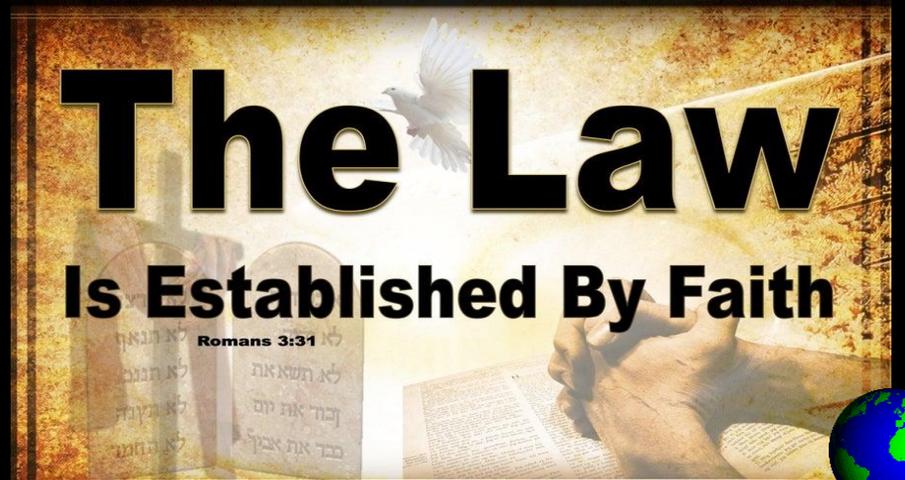
The goal of faith is to live a life worthy of the Lord. Therefore, to say in faith that "Jesus is Lord" is also to commit oneself to obedience....

Obedience of faith is not a new form of legalism. . . Faith is never done with because it is a renewed act of obedience in every situation of life.

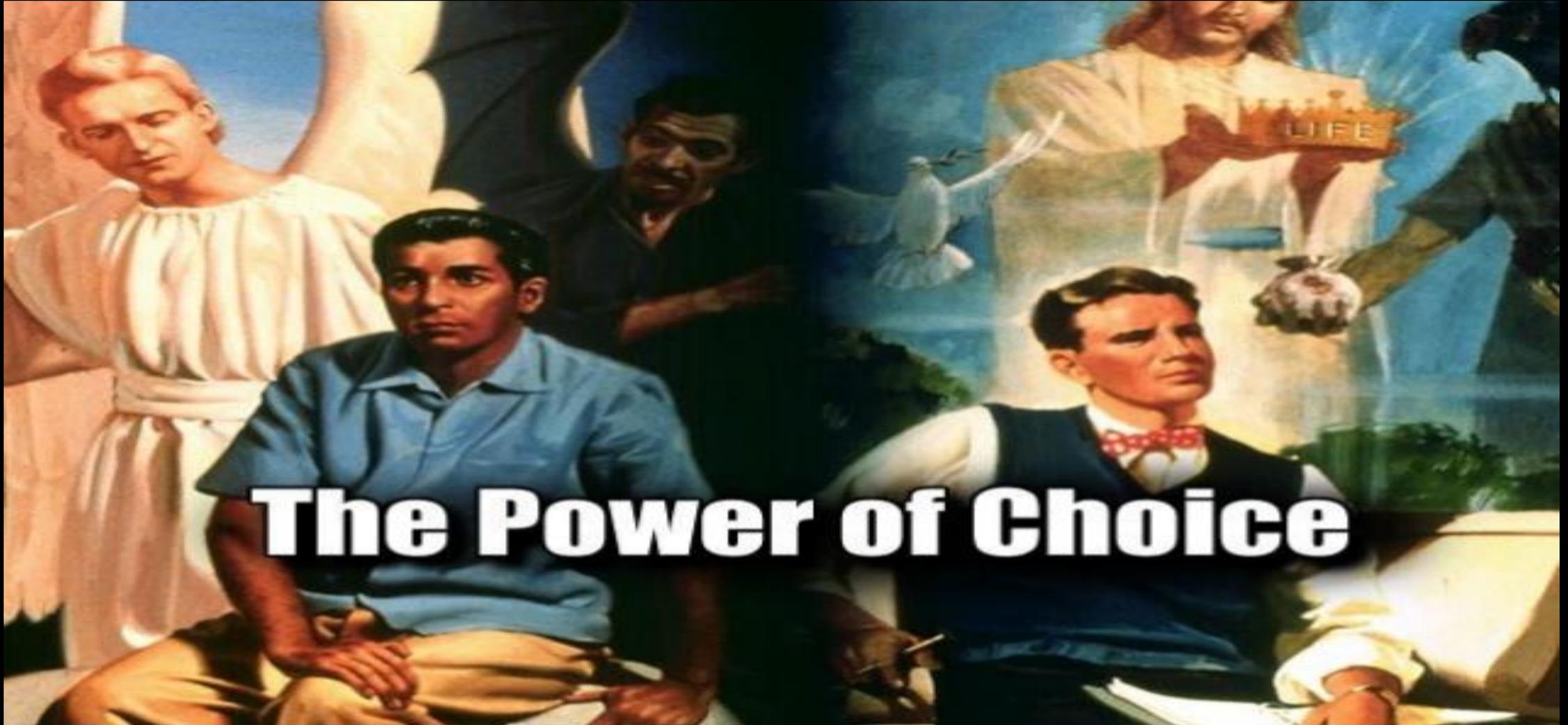
Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes. . . .

Faith is only real when there is obedience to God.

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

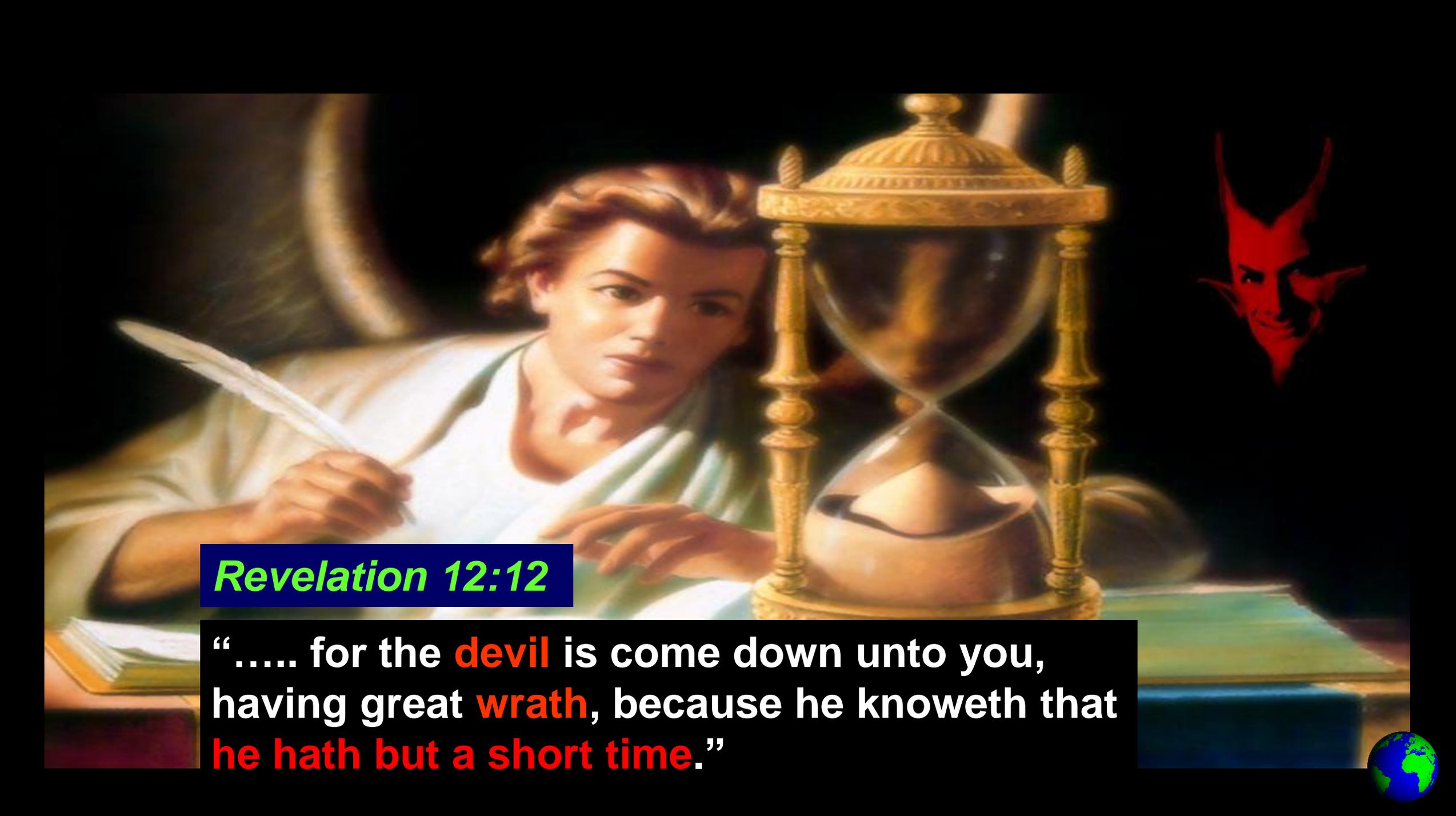


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?