

Power Of True Faith

By Jimmy Stevens

INTRODUCTION: There are many kinds of faith. What is true faith? What power is in true faith? How is true faith demonstrated? What does having true faith and putting God first have to do with each other?

I. What is faith?

- A. Trust in something trustworthy, which does not change or betray, even though the object of this trust may not always be seen. Heb 11:1
- B. Faith is only as valuable as that in which it trusts.

II. What is true, Biblical faith?

- A. Trust in God and His word. God does not expect blind faith. Rom 1:18-20. He provides what to believe, but does not provide faith. FAITH IS OUR PART. Rom 10:17, John 20:30-31, 1 Cor 4:6
- B. God's word is worthy of complete trust. Psa 33:4, 119:160
- C. It has what is necessary for true faith. We cannot decide what to believe. Deut 29:29, John 14:26, 16:13, Acts 20:20, 27,
- D. His sufficient word produces sufficient faith. Jude 3, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Jas 1:25
- E. His word is written down so we can read what He wants. Eph 3:1-5, 2 Th 2:15

III. Because God's word is more powerful than Satan's devices, faith based on it will be more powerful than temptation and sin.

- A. God's word has supreme power. Rom 1:16, Heb 4:12-13
- B. It can defeat anything Satan has to throw at it. Eph 6:10-16, 1 Cor 10:13, Heb 2:1-4

IV. However, true faith benefits only those practicing what it demands.

- A. Trusting God cannot help unless we act on that trust. 2 Th 1:11, Gal 5:5-6, Jas 2:14-20
- B. But practicing true faith conflicts with what disagrees with it. Now the challenge that separates "real" Christians from those just "playing": WILL I BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO PUT GOD FIRST IN MY FAITH?

V. Putting God first forces opposition. No surprise. Matt 7:13-14, Acts 4:16-20. Christians are often opposed. Acts 28:22, 2 Tim 3:10-12, Heb 10:32-34, 1 Pet 4:3-4

VI. Trials test courage. True faith is the seed of godly courage.

- A. Opposition to truth defines courage, Principle: 1 Cor 11:19
- B. True faith works **best** when things are the **worst**.
 1. Being faithful is **easy** when all are doing right. Ex: Society opposes drinking, dancing, or other immorality, or when the church is practicing truth and at peace.
 2. What about **when challenges come**? Ex: Drinking is important to employment. Being immoral to be accepted. The conflict between ballgames, homework, entertainment, and attending worship. Unfaithful brother disrupting the church.
 3. True faith overcomes: Ps 27:3, 46:2, 56:4, 118:6, 1 Th 2:2
- C. Brethren of the first century magnified their righteousness in trials, Jas 1:2-4
- D. Boldly proclaim the truth. Matt 5:13-16, Acts 5:41-42

- E. Greatest attribute of true faith is how well it performs under fire. Rev 2:10. HOW CAN SOME CHRISTIANS EXPECT TO DIE FOR THEIR FAITH WHEN THEY CANNOT EVEN CHOOSE TO ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES BECAUSE OF SOME ENTICEMENT OF THE WORLD? WHAT KIND OF FAITH IS THAT? IT IS NOT TRUE FAITH. THAT IS WHY THERE IS NO POWER IN THAT KIND OF FAITH.

CONCLUSION: Persecution is natural to Christians when God comes first. There is nothing better to cause a hungering for heaven than escaping trials of this earth, but we must be willing to exercise the power of faith at all cost.