

The Power of True Faith

True 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?

What Is Faith?

- Trust in something trustworthy, which will not change or betray, even though we may not always see the object of this trust. Heb 11:1, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*
- Evidence seen in past actions.
- Faith is only as strong as that in which it trusts.
 - God and His word?
 - Entertainment and recreational activities?
 - Aroused and excited emotionalism?

What Is True, Biblical Faith?

- Trust in God and His revealed Word.
 - Not blind faith, Rom 1:18-20
 - God provides that in which to believe.
 - God does not provide faith. Man provides faith. Rom 10:17, John 20:30-31, 1 Cor 4:6
- Word is worthy of complete trust. Psa 33:4, 119:160
- God revealed all that is necessary for true faith. Deut 29:29, John 14:26, 16:13, Acts 20:20, 27, Jude 3
- Sufficient Word creates sufficient faith. 2 Tim 3:16-17, Jas 1:25
- Word is written to be read. Eph 3:1-5, 2 Th 2:15

Faith and Temptation

- Word has supreme power. Rom 1:16, Heb 4:12-13
- His word can defeat all Satan has to throw at it. Eph 6:10-16
- When we trust in this power, we have power to overcome any trial or temptation! Cf. 1 Cor 10:13, Heb 2:1-4

Faith Must Act

- 2 Th 1:11, Gal 5:5-6, Jas 2:14-20
- However, practicing true faith creates conflict.
- “WILL I BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TO PUT GOD FIRST IN MY FAITH?”

God Must Come First

- Putting God first forces us to oppose what is wrong.
 - Found in the minority, Matt 7:13-14
 - Temptation to reject God, Acts 4:16-20
 - Known for being spoken against, Acts 28:22, 2 Tim 3:10-12,
1 Pet 4:3-4

Trials Test Courage

- True faith is the seed of godly courage.
- Trials define courage. Principle: 1 Cor 11:19
- True faith shows courage *best* when things are *worst*.
- Being a faithful Christian is very *easy and enjoyable* when others in the world and church are doing what is right.
- What about when challenges come?

Effects of True Faith

- Obstacle true faith overcomes. Ps 27:3, 46:2, 56:4, 118:6, 1 Th 2:2
- First century brethren. Jas 1:2-4
- Proclaim truth with greater boldness. Matt 5:13-16, Acts 5:41-42
- The greatest attribute of a Christian's faith is how well it performs when things are not going well, even to the point of death. Rev 2:10, *"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."*

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- 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

- Trials are natural to Christians when we put God first in our lives. I can think of nothing better to cause a hungering for going to heaven than to escape the trials of this earth. But to gain that release we must be willing to exercise the power of faith at all cost.

