

GSM

We Live By Faith

Aspects of Faith- Pt. 1?

I. Introduction

A. Sometimes we get haughty and think we know everything about a subject which shuts us off from learning more about it.

B. The biggest hinderance to learning more is what you already know. If you think you got it all you will not be open for more.

C. [1 Cor. 8:2]

1. Two word for know here- eido and ginosko

2. eido- to know fully; ginosko- to progressively know

3. If you think you fully know something you have stopped growing in knowledge!

D. This is true of faith. We must be open to see and learn more about faith. If your faith life is not up to Jesus' standard then there is more to learn!

E. Sometimes our problem is that what we have learned we have let slip. We must often go back to the fundamentals.

II. Faith is Assurance

A. [Heb 11:1]

1. What is faith? Faith is the [Gr. hupostasis] of what is hoped for

2. Hupostasis- To see what this word means let's look at other places in the NT where this word is used.

a. 2 Cor. 9:4- confident

b. 2 Cor. 11:17- confident

c. Heb 3:14- confidence

d. We can be confident that hupostasis means confidence or assurance.

3. NASB- Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for

4. *Assurance* gives the true idea. It is the firm grasp of faith on unseen fact. [Vincent Word Studies]

5. Faith is the conviction of things not seen- conviction- Gr. elegchos- to be won over by proof. To be persuaded; convinced

6. Faith is the proof of what is not seen. **Heart assurance is the proof therefore of possessing what you cannot see.**

- B. **[Rom 4:20-21]**- Abraham was strong in faith having become persuaded. God proved Himself over and over to Abraham.
- C. Paul mentions 7 times in his letters that he was persuaded.
- D. Having faith and believing are the same thing. Faith and believe are from the same Greek root word. Believe is the verb for the noun faith. The Bible teaches that we believe with the heart. This is the place assurance takes place.
- E. You know you are in faith when you have assurance in your heart. You know that you know something is true or is yours even though you do not see it.
- F. Many try to pray with intellectual knowledge of a verse. They question after they pray if they got what they prayed for. This means they are not in faith. When you are in faith you just know on the inside of you that it is done. It is yours. You can't explain it. You just know.
- G. What if you are not there yet? Don't put yourself down! Just go back to the Word and meditate. Pray and seek direction until you get God's leading.
- H. **Assurance comes from rhema from God.** You can hear a rumor and not be fully convinced until you hear it first hand from the person. Then you are assured of the truth.
- I. Faith is heart assurance- Don't pray without it!

III. **A Present Faith**

- A. **[Heb. 11:1]**- Faith **IS**- This shows us that faith is always present tense.
- B. Faith is never future tense! That is hope- confident expectation- we will discuss hope in a later lesson.
- C. If faith is not now it is not faith.
- D. Many say "I believe God is **going** to heal me" and think they are in faith but they are not.
- E. Many have blamed faith when someone died because they believed God was **going** to heal them.
- F. Many say "I am believe God is **going** to provide me money to pay my rent" and think they are in faith but they are not.
- G. All these statements deal with **the future**. These are statements of hope not faith.
- H. Many think that faith is just believing for a manifestation of what they have prayed. This is not faith. This is hope. Hope is necessary but hope is not faith. Hope is believing for something to happen in the

natural in the future. This is a subtle error but a error all the same. Their faith is based upon seeing something appear to their senses. They believe they will get something when it appears. True faith believes it possesses something before the senses can detect it. Faith is used when you do not see something. If you see something you do not need faith. Faith is not making something appear. Faith is accepting or receiving something as real although it is unseen. You draw it from the spiritual to the natural by releasing faith.

I. [Mark 11:23]- verily, I am saying to you that whosoever may be saying to this mountain, 'Be picked up and cast into the sea,' and may not be doubting in his heart, but should be believing that what he is speaking **is occurring**, it shall be his, whatsoever he may be saying." CLV

[Mar 11:23] For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says **is happening**; he shall have whatever he says. WEB

1. Most translate Mark 11:23 as saying- "but believes in his heart that those things **shall come to pass**- future tense. However the Greek is not future tense but present tense.
2. This is the difference between being in faith or not in faith. If you are just believing something will take place you are not in bible faith. You must believe it is happening now before you see anything.

J. Jesus and the fig tree- [Mark 11:12-14; 19-21]- Jesus cursed the tree and walked away. He did not stay to wait for a manifestation. He did not stay and confess over the tree until he saw it die. No, he knew when he spoke it was done. It was dead. It died at the roots- unseen and then appeared the next day above ground to the sight. The disciples believed when they saw it. Jesus believed when he spoke.