

Christian Community Church of God

Bible Study

November 10, 2010

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

- The writer of Hebrews spoke of "**faith**" as that which functions in its present active tense. He spoke of it as "**faith is**"; in other words, **faith** is active in conviction which is persuasion produced by hearing.
- To say then that **faith** is "substance" is to say that **faith** is assurance; and to say that **faith** is "evidence" is to say that **faith** is conviction. So then, **faith** in its daily activities "assures and convicts".
- **Faith** in relation to God carries about it a distinct difference from **faith** in man and **faith** in things.
- **Faith** in God produces a conviction resulting in an acknowledgment of God enough to produce truth.
 - It is **faith** in God which results in us surrendering to a visible God.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:11,12
 11. *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*
 12. *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- John 1:11-13
 11. *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*
 12. *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

13. *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- Upon surrender, **faith** also then produces in us a conduit reflective of such surrender.

- 2 Corinthians 5:5-7

5. *Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

6. *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:*

7. *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

- Our **faith** or trust in man does not lead to our surrender to them. But our faith in God (or conviction of His existence, though invisible) leads to our surrender to Him.
- W.E. Vine says, "All this stands in contrast to belief in its purely natural exercise, which consists of an opinion held in good faith without necessary reference to its proof. For example, he says "The object of Abraham's faith was not God's promise; rather, it was God Himself."

- **Romans 4:16-22**

16. *Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,*

17. *(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*

18. *Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*

19. *And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:*

20. *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;*

21. *And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*

22. *And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.*

- In Hebrews 11:6, "*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,*" we find that **faith** consist of two main components: (1) conviction and (2) trust or belief.
 - While "trust" can be used both in relation to God and man, "conviction and belief" can only be used towards God.
 - As was stated before, conviction through **faith** produces trust. **Faith** towards God caters to a belief in the invisible; he that must find Him, he that must please Him, he that must receive from Him must believe that He is.
 - This **faith** which finds for us an invisible God, compels us to trust His grace, into believing that He is a rewarder of him or those that diligently seek Him or searches for Him as He truly exist.
 - **Faith** in God then begins and ends in the unseen or the invisible. One author says that "**Faith** is conviction supported by evidence concerning things we do not know by experience."
 - It is by **faith** that we believe that the universe was created by a Sovereign God and the universe is sustained by the same God, though not seen.
 - It is also by **faith** that we speak of and expect a heaven we have never seen, yet we looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
 - Hebrews 11:10
10. *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*
- 2 Corinthians 4:15-18
15. *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the*

thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

16. *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*
17. *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;*
18. *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

- **Faith** which is present reveals present things about a present God. **Faith** uses the creation, history/testimony and the word as proof of the present and impacting existence of God.
- If we dispel the Evolution Theory as nonsense (which we should and we must) due to the lack of evidence supporting such theory, then we must conclude that behind this magnificent creation exist an intelligent and caring God.
- One author says that some proofs of this are found in, "The harmony of the Scriptures, the fulfillment of prophecy and the evidence of Christ being raised from the dead."
- It is through this **faith** and this **faith** alone that salvation is realized. While salvation is the complete work of God through Christ, we cannot be saved without **faith**.
- Romans 1:16-17
- 16. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
- 17. *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*
- No step can be taken towards God that is not taken in **faith**, be it moral, social or spiritual for the just shall live by **faith**.