

II Timothy 1; Lord's Day 7

THE ACTIVITY OF FAITH

- I. Faith is active.
 - A. The bond of faith becomes an activity because it is living – as a branch grafted into a living tree.
 - 1. The bond provides us with both the ability (power) and the activity.
 - 2. Faith must be active, for faith without works is dead (James 2: 17).
 - B. How is the activity of faith worked?
 - 1. The Holy Spirit works this activity, infusing into us the ability and the desire to believe.
 - 2. The Spirit works this activity through the Word, the means of grace (Romans 10:13-17; Canons III,IV-17; V-14).
 - C. The essential activity of faith is abiding in, a returning to, and a drawing from Christ.
- II. Faith is first knowledge: holds for truth what God reveals in Scripture.
 - A. “Believed” means “to count to be true,” “to take a statement or someone as truth.”
 - 1. First, faith is not blind, for it has a basis in the revelation given by God of Himself (Romans 4:3).
 - 2. Faith takes for truth what God says in the Bible.
 - B. Faith appropriates, i.e., takes Bible truths and applies them to oneself.
- III. And faith is trust: we are “persuaded” (confidence of heart).
 - A. This persuasion arises from knowing HIM.
 - B. Faith is the persuasion that Christ will care for me, perfecting, establishing, strengthening and settling (I Peter 5:10).
 - C. Faith believes that Jesus will do as He promised.
 - D. In the measure of our personal knowledge of Him, we rise above all doubts and emotional fears.