

The Importance of Faith

Luke 9:27-45

Part One – the Introduction (Selected Scriptures)

12-4-2016

Summary

- Introduction
- The Possession – 9:37-39
- The Perversion – 9:40-42a
- The Power – 9:42b
- The Person – 9:43-45
 - The [e]mpact of His majesty – 9:43a
 - The effect of His actions – 9:43b
 - The extent of His sacrifice – 9:43c-44
 - The embrace of His compassion – 9:45

Introduction

- Form without faith is useless – 2 Tim 3:1-5; cf. Jas 2:18*f*.
- Knowing what the Bible says is insufficient – Jas 2:19*f*.; cf. 2 Tim 3:5,7
 - Six rebukes... “Have you not read” (Mt 12:3, 5; 19:4; 22:31; Mk 12:10, 26; note Lk 6:3 is a repeat of Mt 12:3)
 - Lots of “Do you not understand” and “...hypocrites”, etc.
- Faith without the works that demonstrate belief is dead – Jas 2:17
- True faith is the foundation upon which true spiritual life is built

Introduction – True Faith

- Saved by grace, through faith – Eph 2:8*f.*; cf. Jn 1:12; Ro 3:28; 5:1; Gal 2:16; 3:8,11,24
- Sanctification comes through the application of faith – Gal 2:20; cf. 2 Co 5:6*f.*
- Faith is not a “leap in the dark”
 - Faith is built upon trusting in the nature of God as revealed by the Word of God – Ro 12:1-2
 - Believing in the Scripture is always rational and reasonable, because it has been spoken to us by God – 2 Pe 1:20*f.*
 - Faith brings God’s promises into the present tense, giving substance to future reality as an unshakable assurance – Heb 11:1

Introduction – Faith Definitions

- Everyone exercises faith, but not all faith is biblical
 - We all exercise faith based upon experience
- Biblical faith trusts in what it has not experienced, based upon absolute confidence in the Promises of God in Scripture.
 - Without this kind of faith, it is impossible to please God – Heb 11:6
- Knowledge, *nwtitia*, positive recognition of the truth in which man accepts whatever God says in His Word
- Assent – *assensu*~, describes the emotional component of faith
 - the deep conviction of the truth and reality of the object that meets an important need in one's life
 - Produces a consciousness of an absorbing interest in the object

Introduction – Faith Definitions, cont.

- Fiducia, fiducia, the volitional element of faith seen in an act of will
 - It is not merely knowledge, nor even knowledge and assent
 - Biblical faith is when knowledge and assent result “...in a personal trust in Christ as Savior and Lord, including a surrender of the soul as guilty and defiled to Christ, a reception and appropriation of Christ as the source of pardon and of spiritual life” (Louis Berkhof)

Introduction – What True Faith Produces

- True faith produces, and results in, obedience to God – Lk 6:46; cf. Mt 7:21-23
 - One cannot truly affirm Christ as God, without yielding to Him as Lord – cf., all the saints listed in Heb 11...who believed, and acted in faith even though they all died w/o realizing the fulfillment of their trust
- True faith enables one to face hardship and death as an overcomer – Heb 11:32-38
- True faith gains salvation, proven by the approval of God – 11:39

Introduction – the Tragedy of False Faith

- False faith can look like true faith – 2 Tim 3:5
- But, false faith cannot get one into the heavenly celebration – Mt 22:11*f.*; Mt 7:21*f.*; Lk 6:46
- False faith produces a twisted and distorted view of God’s Word and produces unbelief – Mt 8:23; 21:31
 - It produces a smallness of faith – Mt 17:19*f.*
 - It causes us to fail to seek God’s help – Mk 9:29; cf. Mt 17:20
 - It lacks true knowledge of the true God, resulting in a perverted view of God – Mt 12:34,39; 16:4; 23:33; Mk 8:38; Lk 11:9
 - Just as their forefathers had possessed – Deut 32:5

The Importance of Faith, Pt 2

The Possession, Perversion and Power

Lk 9:37-42b

12-11-2016

The Importance of Faith, Pt 3

The Person of Christ

Lk 9:43-45

12-18-2016