

Are You In The Faith?

June 21, 2020

Hebrews 11:1-2 ESV

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

- *When faith is birthed and growing in the heart by the Word of God, there are specific qualities that faith produces. What are those qualities and do I possess them?*
- *This is one of the primary dynamics that unify members of Christ. Even though we live completely different lives and possess different personalities, faith is changing our hearts in the same way.*
- *To know whether we are in the faith or not cannot be judged by our own standards, but only by God's Word.*

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Hebrews 11:3 ESV

3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

- *Those of a genuine and true faith in God understand that life comes from God and apart from Him there is no life, only vanity and death.*
- *Living faith continually draws your heart back to the Source of eternal life.*
- *Those without this faith strive in vain to find life, peace, joy, security and their identity in things that are made or manufactured by man.*

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 ESV

10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

John 4:13-14 ESV

13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Hebrews 11:4 ESV

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

- *Those of genuine and true faith in God understand that all of life is an offering to please and worship God: every breath, every word, every action. In every circumstance and in every hour, we live to serve and please God.*
- *For Cain, his offering was more about himself instead of pleasing God, more about competition, more about being better than Abel; as revealed in his jealousy which resulted in murder.*

Genesis 4:4-8 ESV

4 And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Colossians 3:17 ESV

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Hebrews 11:5 ESV

5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

- *Those of genuine and true faith in God understand that God desires the intimacy of relationship and companionship.*
- *God is seeking those who will walk with Him; those who will minute by minute, hour by hour, circumstance by circumstance, walk with and abide in God.*

Genesis 5:24 ESV

24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

John 15:4 ESV

4 Abide in me, and I in you.

James 4:8 ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Genesis 3:8 ESV

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Luke 24:13-15 ESV

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,
14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

6 And **without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who seek him.**

- If you don't believe that God exists, then how can you, why would you, try to please someone who doesn't exist?
- Faith is knowing for a certainty that rewards me each and every time I seek Him.

Hebrews 11:7 ESV

7 By faith Noah, **being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.** By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

- Those of genuine and true faith in God live by the understanding that every human being is accountable to and will one day be judged by their Creator; to receive their just judgment for every thought, word and action.
- Those without this faith and understanding, believe that they can determine right from wrong, that Truth is not absolute but Truth is what they deem to be true.

2 Peter 3:3-7 ESV

3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:10-11 ESV

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.*

Hebrews 11:8-10 ESV

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.

10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

- *Those of genuine and true faith in God lay up their treasures in heaven, in the unseen, in God Who is invisible. Meaning the affection of their heart, where they invest their time, energy and money, is in God and the heavenly things, rather than the earth and natural things (money, reputation, position, power).*
- *There is a very distinct difference, an observable distance and aloofness (conspicuously uninvolved and uninterested), between those of a genuine and true faith in God and this world system.*
- *Our aloofness from this world is not lack of compassion. It is the understanding that there is nothing we can do to reform or salvage a world system that hates and rejects God, is reeling under the consequences of sin, and will soon be destroyed by the fiery judgment of God.*

Colossians 3:1-3 ESV

1 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

3 *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Matthew 6:19-21 ESV

19 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,*

20 *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Hebrews 11:11-12 ESV

11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

- *Those of a genuine and true faith in God experience a divine and miraculous intervention in the events and circumstances of their life. Interventions which are beyond natural explanation and origin.*
- *With those of a genuine and true faith in God, there is undeniable evidence of divine intervention and power in both the miracles and in the sufferings.*

Hebrews 11:32-38 ESV

32 *And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--*

33 *who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

34 *quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*

35 *Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.*

36 *Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.*

37 *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated--*

38 *of whom the world was not worthy--wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

Hebrews 11:13-16 ESV

13 **These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

14 **For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.**

15 **If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.**

16 **But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**

- *Those of a genuine and true faith in God understand with greater and greater clarity:*
 - *Planet Earth is not their home nor the center and source of their life.*
 - *Their time here on earth is nothing more than a sojourn; they are simply "passing through."*
 - *All their faith, hope and dreams lie in one place - the New Jerusalem which resides in the new heavens and the new earth.*

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

2 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 ESV

1 *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

2 *For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling.*