

Principles of the Faith 14

The Life of Faith, Death, Glorification

From Faith To Faith

- ▶ Rom 1:17; Gal 3:1-5, 14, 22; Rom 4:13; Heb 6:12; 11:11
- ▶ Faith in a promise activates a blessing
- ▶ We inherit not by works but by faith alone
- ▶ Faith only activates the blessings that are in Christ (so we have to be a Christian first)
- ▶ The Promises: 2 Cor 1:20; Eph 1:3, 4; Gal 3:14; 2 Peter 1:2-8
- ▶ Receiving the Promises: Matt 21:22; Mk 11:24; Lk 11:11-13
- ▶ So the four steps to a blessed life are :
 1. Take hold of a promise from God's Word
 2. Believe it, really believe it
 3. Believe that you have received it, that you actually have it, even if you don't feel anything. God is faithful - that's the bottom line
 4. Walk! Live as if its real (it is) and it will come true. For example if you have asked for joy, live as if God has already given you that joy!
- ▶ God said it, I believe it, I've received it, lets do it!

All By Faith

- ▶ Acts 3:16 – healed by faith
- ▶ Acts 15:9 - purified by faith
- ▶ Acts 26:18 – sanctified by faith
- ▶ Rom 3:28-30; 5:1 – justified by faith
- ▶ Rom 5:2 – access to God by faith
- ▶ Rom 11:20 , 2 Cor 1:24– we stand by faith
- ▶ 2 Cor. 5:7 – we walk by faith
- ▶ Gal 2:20; 3:11 - we live by faith
- ▶ Gal 3:26 - sons of God through faith
- ▶ Eph 2:8,9 – saved through faith
- ▶ Eph 3:17 – Christ dwells in our heart through faith
- ▶ Php 3:9 - made righteous through faith
- ▶ Heb 6:12 – inherit promises through faith
- ▶ Heb 11 – whole chapter – the life of faith
- ▶ 1 Peter 1:5 – kept through faith

How Faith Works - 1

- ▶ Faith involves believing God's Word in a certain specific matter (e.g. Abraham believed God's promise about having a son through Sarah or those in the gospels who believed for a certain healing or result).
- ▶ Faith has to start with a Word from God (either personally or in Scripture) and then believes that this Word is true and certain.
- ▶ Faith often involves believing things that God tells us apart from sense perception (Heb 11:1-6, 27; 1 Cor 12:9, 2 Cor 5:7)
- ▶ Or which seem unlikely or impossible (Rom 4:16-21; Matt 17:20)
- ▶ Faith involves our deep intuitive trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God (Heb 11:6)
- ▶ Faith involves the use of spiritual senses (Heb 5:14; Acts 26:18)

How Faith Works - 2

- ▶ Faith causes things to happen (Matt 9:2,22,26; 15:28; 17:20; 21:21)
- ▶ Unbelief prevents things from happening (Matt 13:58)
- ▶ Faith often involves patience (Heb 6:12; 2 Thess 1:4; Rev 13:10)
- ▶ Faith is tested by trials (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9)
- ▶ Faith involves a sense of confident assurance (Heb 11:1; Eph 3:12)
- ▶ Faith is undermined by doubt (James 1:5-8; Matt 14:31, 21;21)
- ▶ Faith is undermined by anxiety over this life (Matt 6:24-34; 13:22)
- ▶ Faith is greatly helped if we decide to set our mind on the Spirit, the things of God, the things above - and if we pray in the Spirit.
- ▶ Faith is hindered if we set our minds on the flesh, on things below, our problems, anxieties or if we are sluggish and prayer-less.



Putting On The New Nature

- ▶ 2 Cor. 5:17; Col 3:10-14
- ▶ We have a new nature but we have to “put on” the new nature by faith e.g. Mercy
- ▶ No work or program will make you kind and merciful
- ▶ You cannot “put on mercy” by all the study in the world!
- ▶ You can only “put on mercy” by faith
- ▶ You ask for a new nature of mercy, you believe that this blessing is given to you in Christ, you believe that you have received a merciful new heart from God, you activate this by starting out a new life of merciful actions, making your new nature “real”.
- ▶ You keep on adding virtues by faith in the promises 2 Peter 1:2-8



Death (for Christians)

- ▶ For Christians the body dies because of sin - but the spirit is alive because of Christ (Rom 8:10)
- ▶ The eternal core self (Christ self) is alive and cannot die and passed out of death into life when the person believed. (Jn 5:24)
- ▶ The Christian continues to be conscious but is absent from the body and becomes at home with the Lord (2 Cor 5:6-8; Php 1:21-23)
- ▶ There is no reincarnation (Heb 9:27)
- ▶ There is no condemnation for believers (Rom 8:1,34, 1 Thess 5:9)
- ▶ There is no longer any “sting” in death (Rom 8:38,39; 1 Cor 15:54,55)
- ▶ Life continues immediately in the presence of God (Lk 23:43; 2 Cor 5:8; Php 1:23; Heb 12:23; Rev 6:9-11)
- ▶ We give an account of our life on earth and of our ministry (Rom 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:10-15; Heb 13:17; James 3:1)



Death (for unbelievers)

- ▶ Luke 16: 19-31; Jn 5:12; Jn 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12
- ▶ Matt 13:37-43, 49-50; 18:8-9; 25:41 Mk 9:43,44; Jn 15:6
- ▶ Col 3:6; 2 Thess 1:8,9; Rev 2:11, 20: 6, 10-15, 21:8
- ▶ Rom 2:5; James 5:1-5; 2Peter 3:7; 1 Jn 3:14; Jude 1:23;
- ▶ There is no purgatory
- ▶ They do not have life
- ▶ They abide in death and go to the second death
- ▶ They go to a place of fiery torment



The Resurrection & Glorification

- ▶ I Thessalonians 4:14-18, Rev 20:5,6
- ▶ I Corinthians 6:14, 15:12-28
- ▶ Romans 6:5; 8:17ff; I Peter 1:3,4; I Jn 3:1-4;
- ▶ Lk 20:36; Jn 5:28-29; 6:39-40,44,54; 11:25; Ac 24:15;
- ▶ At the return of Christ the dead shall be raised
- ▶ Believers who are alive will join Him in the air
- ▶ We will put on glory and be like Christ
- ▶ We will have resurrection bodies
- ▶ We will have spiritual natures
- ▶ This is the completion of our redemption



From Glory To Glory

- ▶ Rom 8:17-18, 28-30; I Cor 2:7; 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 3:17,18; 4:17; Eph 1:18; 5:27; Col 1:27; 3:4; I Thess 2:12; 2 Thess 2:14; 2 Tim 2:10; Heb 2:10; I Peter 1:7,8; 4:14; 5:4,10; 2 Peter 1:3; I Jn 3:1-4;
- ▶ Glory has two main contexts:
 - a) The glory of our character – being like Christ
 - b) The glory of our eternal reward and the heavenly realms
- ▶ We are changed from glory to glory by the Spirit
- ▶ On the basis of the promises (not through works)
- ▶ To the destination which is Christ-likeness
- ▶ We are not to glorify ourselves (be boastful)
- ▶ We are to seek the glory that is in Christ, not the glory of this world system and its riches and honors.



The Renewal of Creation

- ▶ Romans 8:17-23
- ▶ As Christians are glorified Creation is released from bondage
- ▶ The curse of the Fall is undone completely (Gen 3:17-19, Rev 22:3)
- ▶ Creation is renewed in the Millennium (Is 11:6-9; 65:25)
- ▶ The earth enjoys a 1000 year Sabbath
- ▶ Finally the entire world is re-created and the New Jerusalem comes down to earth



Reward

- ▶ I Cor 3:8-15, Rom 14:10-12; Rev 11:18;
- ▶ Reward is on the basis of building upon Christ (see above)
- ▶ Reward is for faithfulness Matt 24:45-47, 25:21-23, I Cor 4:2
- ▶ Reward involves authority Lk 19:17-19, 2 Tim 4:8, I Peter 5:4, Js 1:12
- ▶ Reward involves our work in the Lord (I Cor 9:16,17; Rev 22:12)
- ▶ And even our daily work (Col 3:22-25)
- ▶ And our spiritual responses (Lk 6:23,35)
- ▶ We can lose our reward 2 Jn 1:8 but not our salvation (I Cor 3:15)
- ▶ We should look to the reward (Heb 11:6, 26)
- ▶ It involves receiving the promise (Heb 10:35,36)

