

## Lesson 10-12

### Christianity Based on True Faith

#### I. Faith in God is absolutely essential in the new birth process.

- A. True repentance and faith are inseparable. They are \_\_\_\_\_ upon each other.

Ern Baxter: “To profess to turn to God without forsaking sin in repentance ends in hypocrisy. To attempt to forsake sin without turning to God in faith ends in failure and despair.”

1. Jesus closely connected repentance and faith (Mark 1:14-15).
  2. The Early Church leaders closely connected repentance and faith (Acts 20:18-21).
- C. When you turn from something it naturally implies a \_\_\_\_\_ something else.
1. We turn \_\_\_\_\_ idols \_\_\_\_\_ serve the living God (Acts 14:15; I Th. 1:9).
  2. We turn \_\_\_\_\_ darkness \_\_\_\_\_ light (Acts 26:15-18).
- D. The writer to the Hebrews indicated that faith toward God is part of our Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 6:1-3).
- E. Paul declared in Romans that we are \_\_\_\_\_ by faith (Rom. 5:1-2).

#### II. Faith can be defined in several ways:

- A. Webster: “Trust, firm persuasion, assurance, firm conviction, confidence in another’s word.”
- B. Kevin Conner: “Faith toward God is simply to trust God, to have confidence in Him and His word. To believe what God has said, that His word is true, and what He has promised, He will perform.”
- C. R.A. Torrey: “To believe God is to rely upon or have unhesitating assurance of the truth of God’s testimony, even though it is unsupported by any other evidence, and to rely upon or have unfaltering assurance of the fulfillment of His promises, even though everything seen seems against fulfillment.”
- D. Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of things (we) hope for, being the proof of things (we) do not see and the conviction of their reality - faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.” – Amplified Bible

Other translations:

*What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. –NLT*

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. –NIV*

*Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see. –CEV*

*Now faith means putting our full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see. –Phillips*

- E. Pamela Reeve in her book *Faith Is...* offers many definitions that relate faith to our daily lives (*Faith Is...*, 1970, Multnomah Press). Here are just a few examples:

Faith is...

- The conviction of realities I cannot see or feel.
- The handle by which I take God's promises and apply them to my problems.
- Allowing God to straighten the record when false things have been said about me.
- Doing the right thing regardless of the consequences knowing God will turn the ultimate effect to good.
- Rejecting the feeling of panic when things seem out of control—His control.
- Recognizing that God is the Lord of Time when my idea of timing doesn't agree with His.
- The assurance that God is perfecting His design for me when my life's course, once a swift-flowing current seems a stagnant pool.
- Confidence that God is acting for my highest good when He answers "NO" to my prayers.
- Not related to my believing hard enough, nor my emotional exhilaration or flatness, but rests on what God guarantees in His Word.
- Not a vague hope of a happy hereafter, but an assurance of heaven based on my trust in Christ's death as payment for my sins.

### **III. Faith is important in the life of the believer.**

- A. It is necessary for \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 8:12; I Cor. 1:21; Eph. 2:8-9).
- B. It is necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:6).
- C. It is the quality that defines our Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:16-17).
- D. It opens the door to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - 1. It opens the door to \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 21:22).
  - 2. It opens the door to \_\_\_\_\_ power of God (Mark 9:23; 21:21).
  - 3. It determines the \_\_\_\_\_ that we receive from the Lord (Mt. 8:13; 9:27-30; 15:28).

**IV. Faith is something for which we must contend.**

- A. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ (I Tim. 6:12; II Tim. 4:7; Jude 3; Jam. 1:2-3; I Pet. 1:6-7).
- B. There is a fight of faith because there are \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith.
  - 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan (Gen. 3:1; Mt. 4:3; Luke 4:8; John 8:44).
  - 2. Mental \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 14:24:32; Jam. 1:5-8).
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (See: Deut. 31:6; Josh. 1:2-9; I Chr. 28:20; II Chr. 15:7)
  - 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Circumstances
  - 5. Physical \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 3:11; 4:10; Jer. 1:6)
  - 6. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ Provision or Poverty (Hag. 2:8)

**V. There are several keys to developing an overcoming faith.**

- A. The first key to developing an overcoming faith is exposing oneself to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:2, 5).
  - 1. Understand that faith comes through the avenue of God's Word.

2. Put yourself in a place \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.
    - a. Listen \_\_\_\_\_ when it is preached.
    - b. Read the Word \_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. Take every opportunity \_\_\_\_\_ from the Word.
  3. Feed your faith and your doubts will \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Feed on \_\_\_\_\_ that reinforce your faith.
    - b. Feed on \_\_\_\_\_ that build and inspire your faith.
    - c. Feed on \_\_\_\_\_ that is word-based (magazines, entertainment, books, biographies, etc.).
- B. The second key to developing an overcoming faith is praying in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Jude 20; I Cor. 14:4).
- C. The third key to developing an overcoming faith is living a life of quick  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
1. Faith and obedience are inseparable.
 

The promises that are given to believers are given to those who \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 5:32).

To profess to believe and yet not obey is \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 23:2-3; Tit.  
1:15-16).
  2. Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ by obedience (Jam. 2:18-26). Faith is dead faith if  
it does not lead to action.
  3. As we are hearers and doers of the Word and \_\_\_\_\_ of  
obedience, faith grows in us and we walk from faith to faith (Col. 2:6-7).
  4. The heroes of faith in Hebrew 11 all demonstrated their faith by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:1-2).
    - a. God demonstrated faith when He spoke forth boldly to create the worlds  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:3).
    - b. Abel demonstrated faith when he offered a sacrifice that was not appealing  
\_\_\_\_\_ but was that for which God had asked (Heb.  
11:4).
    - c. Enoch demonstrated faith when he believed that after walking with God  
consistently for 300 years he could God home with God when invited to  
do so (Heb. 11:5).

- d. Noah demonstrated faith when he spent 100 years building an ark to save mankind from a flood caused by rain which he had \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:7).
  - e. Abraham demonstrated faith when he was willing to leave his home country at the direction of the Lord even though he did not know exactly where he \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:8-12).
  - f. Abraham also demonstrated faith when he was willing to offer up his son Isaac at the word of the Lord believing that God \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead to fulfill the promises to him (Heb. 11:17-19).
5. Faith is not an emotional feeling; it is \_\_\_\_\_ on the principles of God's word without the evidence of \_\_\_\_\_. It is being governed by the Word of God without the need for any other proof (Hebrew 1:1).

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*  
 -NIV  
*What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.* -NLT

6. In a very real sense, \_\_\_\_\_.

God makes a promise, faith believes it, hope anticipates it, patience quietly awaits it.

D. The fourth key to developing an overcoming faith is maintaining a faith \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Christianity is first and foremost a “\_\_\_\_\_” (Heb. 3:1).

*Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our **confession**...* Hebrews 3:1

- a. As such there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.
- b. As such there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.
- c. There is a faith that \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. The word “confession” means “saying the \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - i. Faith is \_\_\_\_\_ or saying the same thing as God on each and every point.
  - ii. Confession is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth that we have received.
  - iii. Jesus only said those things that He heard the Father saying (John 14:10, 24).

2. True faith speaks or has \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 10:6-13).

There are two types of speaking or confessions mentioned in these verses:

a. There is \_\_\_\_\_ speaking (“Do not say!”). There is a type of speaking that \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

i. We are not to speak \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God.

ii. It is a sin to speak other than what \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 14:23).

iii. We are \_\_\_\_\_ by the words of our mouth (Pro. 6:2).

Job was a man who maintained faith, a good confession, high standards, and his principled life in the face of contradiction (Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10; 19:25-27; 27:2-6).

Have you ever noticed how many common phrases that are used in our culture are really \_\_\_\_\_. Here are just a few to think about...

- All good things \_\_\_\_\_ come to an end.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is believing.
- God helps those who \_\_\_\_\_.
- Everyone is entitled to at least \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you can't beat them \_\_\_\_\_.
- To \_\_\_\_\_.
- All things \_\_\_\_\_ for good.
- Well, \_\_\_\_\_ is perfect.
- Love means you never have to say \_\_\_\_\_.
- Just leave it alone and it will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Etc.

b. There is \_\_\_\_\_ speaking (“Saying what God says”). There is a type of speaking that \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ it.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ it in your heart.

You must \_\_\_\_\_ it.

c. The heart and the mouth are closely \_\_\_\_\_.

i. What we speak is often a \_\_\_\_\_ our heart (Mt. 12:33-37).

ii. Many verses connect the heart and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut. 30:14; Ps. 19:4; Eccl. 5:2; Rom. 10:9-10).

E. The fifth key to developing an overcoming faith is fostering right \_\_\_\_\_ and a faith focus.

1. Fostering right meditations involves two disciplines.

a. Fostering right meditations involves avoiding the \_\_\_\_\_.

- i. Shun profane and idle babblings that overthrow the faith of some (II Tim. 2:16-18).
- ii. Do not listen to fables and endless genealogies that do not build faith and cause many to stray from the truth (I Tim. 1:3-7).
- iii. Reject seducing spirits and doctrines of devils that will cause some to depart from the faith (I Tim. 4:1-5).
- iv. Reject old wives' fables that are contrary to faith (I Tim. 4:6-7).
- v. Avoid the contradictions of what is falsely called science or knowledge which cause some to stray from the faith (I Tim. 6:20-21).

“Religion has nothing to fear from true science, and the minister of the gospel is not exhorted to dread that. Real science, in all its advances, contributes to the support of religion; and just in proportion as that is promoted will it be found to sustain the Bible, and to confirm the claims of religion to the faith of mankind... It is only false or pretended science that religion has to dread, and which the friend of Christianity is to avoid. The meaning here is, that Timothy was to avoid everything which falsely laid claim to being ‘knowledge’ or ‘science.’ There was much of this in the world at the time the apostle wrote; and this, more perhaps than anything else, has tended to corrupt true religion since.”  
--Barnes

- vi. Do not consume yourselves in “doubtful disputations” (Rom. 14:1).
- vii. Philosophies, vain deceits and traditions of men can also lead us down the wrong road (Col. 2:8).

b. Fostering right meditations involves thinking on the \_\_\_\_\_.

In Philippians 4:8-9, Paul instructed us to think on these things...

- True (Truth, Not Falsehood)
- Honorable (Noble, Honest, Not deceitful)
- Right (Just)
- Pure (Chaste, Clean)
- Lovely (Proper, Appropriate)
- Admirable (Reputable)

- Excellent (Virtuous)
  - Praiseworthy (Commendable)
2. Fostering a faith focus means we focus our spiritual eyes on \_\_\_\_\_  
(II Cor. 4:16-18; Col. 3:1-3).
- a. This means that we focus on God's Word rather than man or \_\_\_\_\_  
word.
- b. This means that we focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God rather than on  
the size of our problem and the limitation of our resources.

Wendell Smith in his book *Great Faith* expressed confidence in the  
magnitude of God this way (pg. 27).

- There is no problem He cannot solve.
- There is no question He cannot answer.
- There is no disease He cannot heal.
- There is no demon He cannot cast out.
- There is no enemy He cannot defeat.
- There is no difficulty He cannot overcome.
- There is no stronghold He cannot bring down.
- There is no bondage He cannot break.
- There is no prison He cannot open.
- There is no need He cannot meet.
- There is no mountain He cannot move.
- There is nothing too hard for our God!

### **God's Unchanging Word By Martin Luther**

For feelings come and feelings go  
And feelings are deceiving:  
My warrant is the Word of God,  
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned  
For want of some sweet token,  
There is one greater than my heart  
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word  
Til soul and body sever:  
For, though all things shall pass away,  
His Word shall stand forever.