

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 27, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Hebrews 11: 1

Title: "Now FAITH is..."

FAITH, *pistis* (pis-tis), persuade, be persuaded, *properly*, persuasion.

It's a "gift" from **GOD**, and *never* something that can be produced by people!

The *opposite* of **FAITH** is *unbelief* [*distrust, mistrust, rejection*]; **FAITH** is not *doubt* but *disobedience*; *fear* is the *opposite* of **FAITH**, while *worry* is the *opposite* of *trust*.

But do know, the *fountainhead* of "saving **FAITH**" is **The GRACE of GOD!**

Remember, "For by **GRACE** are ye saved..." Because of **GOD'S GRACE** are *sinful men forgiven, converted, purified, and saved*.

GRACE ALONG! GOD'S boundless LOVE, Goodness, COMpassion, Mercy, that proceeds out of **The Throne of GOD** and of **The LAMB**, that was slain.

FAITH is the work of **GOD'S GRACE** in us! We are saved "through **FAITH**," BUT it is "by **GRACE ALONG!**"

FAITH, *what* is it?

FAITH, *why* is it 'the channel' of blessing(s)?

FAITH, *how* can it be obtained and increased?

There are *many descriptions* of **FAITH** [briefly, I don't want to *confound* but to *expound*] so see with me, these 3...

1. **FAITH is Knowledge.**

2. **FAITH is Belief.** And,

3. **FAITH is Trust.**

**Knowledge*... I don't want to deal with definitions, for 'almost everybody, know everything.'

But simply, *knowledge* means to *know*, or *be aware* of things. Well,

"How then shall they call on **HIM** in whom they have not *believed*? And how shall they *believe* in **HIM** of whom they have not *heard*? And how shall they *hear* without a preacher?"

(Romans 10: 14)

I don't know about you, but I need to be *informed* of a fact before I can possibly believe it.

I don't believe many things of which I've never *heard*!

"So then **FAITH** comes by *hearing*, and *hearing* by **The WORD of GOD.**" (Romans 10: 17)

We must first *hear* in order that we may *know* what is to be *believed*.

"They that *know* **YOUR NAME** must put their trust in **YOU**. For **THOU, LORD**, hast not forsaken them that seek **THEE.**" (Psalm 9: 10)

We (ALL) must have a measure of '*knowledge*' for herein is "**FAITH**" obtained, therefore, '*knowledge*' of **GOD'S GRACE** and **FAITH** in **The LORD JESUS CHRIST** is important.

"Incline your *ear*, and come unto **ME**; *hear* and your soul shall live." (Isaiah 55: 3)

Seek to know **GOD in CHRIST JESUS**— “But without **FAITH** it is impossible to please **HIM**; for he that cometh to **GOD** must believe that **HE** is, and that **HE** is a rewarder of them that diligently seek **HIM**.” (Hebrew 11: 6)

Question? **FAITH** begins with ‘knowledge,’ do you know **GOD**? (I JOHN 4: 1-13)

Do you know **JESUS CHRIST**? (1 Timothy 2: 1-6) Is your **FAITH** in **HIM** increasing?

[Example: a chair... first you must be *informed* of what it is and what’s its *purpose*. You must get off the ground to *sit* on it... Then, bind yourself to *sit* on it... *note your feet are still on the ground*—that took **FAITH**! What if you put 4 chairs together and lay your *whole body* on them—that’s *increased* **FAITH**—that’s “*Clinging* **FAITH**!”]

***FAITH** is when you depend (believe) upon another from knowledge and *follow* them.

[Example, ‘a *blind man* who trust himself with **HIS** guide him, knowing **HIS** *voice*, that **HIS** friend can see. (John 9: 1-7) [Trusting **HIM** he walks where **HIS** guide *conducts* or *instructs* him. Though *blind*, he *freely puts his hand out* and puts it in his **FRENDS** hand and *follows* **HIS** lead.]

***FAITH** grows out of **LOVE**. Why do I trust **GOD** my **FATHER**? Why do I trust **JESUS**, my **LORD** and **SAVIOR**?

***FAITH** realizes **The Presence of The Living GOD and SAVIOR** and thus breeds in the soul a beautiful *calm* and *quiet*.

***FAITH** is to be a ‘*child*’ toward **CHRIST**—believing in **HIM** as a *real* and *present* **PERSON**—at this very moment near and dear to **ALL** who know, believe, and trust **HIM**.

“And said, **Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into The KINGdom of heaven.**” (Matthew 18: 3)

[Example” a child and a piece of candy.]

***FAITH** grows through experience. *It helps you to act in the right manner* contrary to appearances... *it leads you to commit your all* to the keeping of **CHRIST**... *it prepares you for your* **Promised Harvest of JOY and Peace**.

FAITH gives up everything into **The Hands of CHRIST**, knowing we will get back an abundant increase! I heard **HIM** say,

“**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in GOD, believe also in ME.**” (John 14: 1)

“Now FAITH is...”