

THE "HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN" SERIES

ROMANS 12:1-2

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX-493 SEPTEMBER 09, 2009

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHAT IS FAITH ?

*A SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP, HOLINESS
AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Devotion, Holiness, Revival, Christianity, Heaven

Romans 12:1-2

I **beseech** (urge, personally challenge, plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present** your **bodies** a living sacrifice, **holy, acceptable** to God, *which is your reasonable service.* :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

"HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN"

WHAT IS FAITH ?

1.) Faith and who we are

Defining the Faith;

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

1a.) Our relationship to faith

**for every human being - -
faith plays a huge role in their day to day life.**

**YOU AND I HAVE GREATER FAITH
THAN WE THINK.**

The million-dollar question is...

What is your faith in – what or who is the object of your faith?

It's no mystery

We exercise faith everyday in almost every situation. It's such a part of us that we consider a way of life.

Faith in the common things;

We have faith that we will awake in the morning.

We have faith that we'll eat food .

We have faith that we'll be healthy .

Having your “common faith” challenged

Driving across the golden gate bridge in a storm

For example – when you're
in a plane at 35,000 in there's lightning and turbulence

what causes our “Christian faith” to be challenged?

When something is perceived to be stronger than our object of faith.

“When The Storm Becomes Bigger Than My God”

Matthew 14:23-32

And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. :24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. :25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. :26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. :27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.**” :28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” :29 ¶So He said, “**Come.**” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. :30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” :31 And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “**O you of little faith, why did you doubt?**” :32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. :33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

2 Corinthians 1:24
it is by faith you stand.

When these times come upon us - We will exercise faith - but in what?...

We will naturally Search for terra firma. We'll grab hold of something, We'll instinctively call out for help. – and we should

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: **:25** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. **:26** “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: **:27** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

As Your Pastor, Your Spiritual Doctor
I say – “Take This (lesson in faith) and Call Me in The Morning”

Psalm 121:2-4

My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. **:3** He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. **:4** Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

FAITH AND WHO WE ARE

1b.) Our dependence upon faith

Our Faith is in Jesus Christ.

That is what makes us authentic Christians – a faith-based relationship in the Lord.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

By Faith....

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

FAITH AND WHO WE ARE

1c.) Our need for faith

beware of the television preacher or the best selling Christian book that says... “if you just have enough faith” or “have faith in faith” that’s false doctrine and it will harm you.

Faith is a Vehicle that Drives you to the Answer
Faith isn't the Answer – Faith takes you There.

Faith is the vehicle that transports or drives you to heaven because the object of your faith is Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:21-22

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, :22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” *WHAT IS FAITH ?*

2.) Faith and what it does

FAITH AND WHAT IT DOES

2a.) Faith allows us to look over the fence

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Hebrews 11:8

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

2b.) Faith inspires us to look to the Lord

What the U.N. Doesn't Know...

Hebrews 11:9

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

Hebrews 11:32-34

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: :33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, :34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

FAITH AND WHAT IT DOES

2c.) Faith sparks movement

Hebrews 11:29-31

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. :30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. :31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

Paul the Apostle Prayed for The Ephesians

Ephesians 3:17

...that Christ may dwell in your hearts **through faith**;
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

through faith

this is not an imagined or a pretend “dwelling of Christ” in your heart and life, it is a reality, not a delusion.

So how does that work ?

Faith is as real in the “Eternal – Spirit” State
As Concrete is in this “Temporal – Physical” State

“HOW DO WE GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN” WHAT IS FAITH ?

3.) Faith and where it works

John 10:10b

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it **more abundantly**.

This “**Abundant Life**” is a life defined as...

perisso/B **perissos**, *per-is-sos*; a life that is above or higher. A life that is “elevated in or sense of being beyond what is normal. An exceeding life.

Think of Your Christian Life Like This;

Think of yourself as being a fine tool – with many components to it.

1 component is **willingness**, 2 component is **gifting**, 3 component is **obedience**, 4 component is **faith** 5 component is experience and so on...

WHAT IS FAITH

3a.) Faith works in the dark

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

But what does that mean ?

To walk by faith is to ‘rely on’ the word, the promises of God.

TURN ON THE WORD WHEN YOU’RE IN THE DARK

Applied Bible always works the best !!!

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food (deeper things of the Christian life) belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by **reason of use** have their **senses exercised** to discern both good and evil.

WHAT IS FAITH

3b.) Faith works at the right moment

When **comfort** is needed:

Faith pours into your emotions...

Psalm 16:8-9

I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand **I shall not be moved.** :9
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.

When *peace* is needed:

Faith calms you by Refreshing your Mind

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; :7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When *discernment* is needed:

Faith requires that you wait on the Lord

Psalms 23:2

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

When *direction* is needed:

Faith points you to the Biblical path

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; :6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

When *sight* is needed:

Faith allows you to see the invisible things of life.

Hebrews 11:9-10

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; :10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

When *hope* is needed:

Faith lifts you up and over the darkness

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.

————— *End of Study* —————