

The Wednesday Word, January 2, 2019: The Vital Gift of Faith

The gift of faith is vital for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), yet faith is not our saviour. By faith, we not only acknowledge our debt of sin but also recognize that we don't have to pay a penny of it.

Spurgeon said it like this, "My faith rests not upon what I am, or shall be, or feel, or know, but in who and what Christ is, in what He has done ..."

As we grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18) we learn more of the ways of faith.
For example,

We learn that faith is the **adopting grace**. "We are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3: 26).

Faith is the **justifying grace**. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Romans 5:1).

Faith is the **conquering grace**. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith" (1 John 5: 4).

Faith is the **wonder-working grace**. Saints "through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens" (Hebrews 11: 33-34).

Faith is not merely a hope so, it is the way forward when we are stagnant. Faith brings certainty. Faith brings us continually to the Gospel for genuine faith has the Lord Jesus as its object. Though we may be saturated with sin, faith takes us to Christ.

Faith causes us to embrace Jesus.
Faith causes us to cling to Him.
Faith sees that He is our only hope.

Henry Law said it like this,

"Faith is the eye which sees Him,
the ear which hears Him,
the hand which holds Him,
the feet which follow hard after Him,
the heart which loves Him,
the head which knows Him,
the memory which retains Him,
the affections which are entwined around Him,
the trust which trusts in Him,
the hope which hopes in Him."

Indeed, faith is the entire person loving Jesus, looking only unto Him, swallowed up in Him, making Him the All in All.' (*Henry Law, Meditations on the Epistle to the Ephesians.*)

There was once a French tightrope walker, Charles Blondin, who did incredible aerial feats. All over Paris, he would do tightrope acts blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow. An American promoter read about this and wrote to Blondin, saying, "Sir, I don't believe you can do it, but I'm willing to make you an offer. For a very substantial sum of money, besides all your travel expenses, I would like to challenge you to do your act over Niagara Falls."

Blondin wrote back, "Sir, I'd love to attempt this."

On September 14, 1860 after a lot of promotion many people came to see the event. The tightrope acrobat was to start on the Canadian side and walk to the American side. The Drums rolled, and Blondin set out across the rope which was suspended over the most treacherous part of the falls. As usual, he was blindfolded and pushing a wheelbarrow!! And he made it across easily. The crowds went wild, and he came to the promoter saying, "Well Sir, now do you believe I can do it?"

"Well of course I do. I mean, I just saw you do it."

"No," said Blondin, "do you really believe I can do it?"

"Well of course I do, you just did it."

"No, no, no," said Blondin, "do you trust that I can do it?"

"Yes," said the Promoter, "I believe you can do it."

"Good," said Blondin, "then get in the wheelbarrow and I'll take you across."

What an excellent illustration of faith! Faith, as it were, causes us to get into the wheelbarrow of life embracing Jesus in every situation.

And that's the Gospel Truth!