

# Faith

2 Peter 1:5

Introduction:

A. Faith is foundation of "Christian Graces."

1. Figure of chorus or symphony is used. Start with faith rest blended in.
2. First of "these things" of verses 8-15.

B. "Faith" will be examined from four angles:

1. Faith Defined.
2. Faith Generated.
3. Faith Exercised.
4. Faith Maintained.

Discussion:

II. The Definition of Faith.

A. Basic meaning: Firm persuasion...(akin to *peitho*, "to persuade") - Vine.

B. Biblical meaning:

1. Used subjectively
  - a. Of what one believes (2 Thess. 3:2).
  - b. Of the degree of that belief. (Mt. 6:30; Lk. 7:9).
2. Used objectively (Jude 3; 1 Tim. 5:8).
3. Used with implied object being Deity and divine revelation.
4. Generally used of belief in unseen realities of divine revelation. (cf. John 20:29; Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 5:6-9).

III. The Generation of Faith

A. Not by direct divine touch.

1. Calvinism's problem: A heart closed by total depravity, incapable of faith.
2. Calvinism's solution: Direct divine intervention to prepare heart to believe. (Cf. Presbyterian's statement to me about how it works.)

B. But by indirect divine testimony.

1. Rom. 10:6-17.
  - a. No need now for direct touch to produce faith. (vs. 6-7 cf. Jn. 20:27-29).
  - b. Need only the preached word. (v. 8-17).
2. John 17:20 -- "Believe through their word."
3. John 6:44-46 -- God draws through hearing and learning.
4. Rom. 1:15,16 -- Preached gospel has power to save. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:21).
5. 1 Pet. 1:23-25 -- Born again by the word preached.

IV. The Exercise of Faith

A. By obedience to the faith. (Acts 6:7; Rom. 1:5; Acts 16:30-34).

B. By a working faith. (James 2:14-26).

C. By adding virtue, etc. (text)

V. The Maintenance of Faith

A. Faith needs to grow. (2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Cor. 10:15).

1. By growing in knowledge of word that produces faith. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:18)
2. By experience in practicing the word. (2 Pet. 1:8).

B. Faith can be lost. (Heb. 3:12; 1 Tim. 4:1).

Conclusion:

A. N.T. faith is not faith in faith, but faith the gospel.

B. N.T. faith is not produced miraculously, but by preached word.

C. N.T. faith needs to be maintained and exercised or will be lost.