

These Three Remain - Faith

July 16, 2017

What does biblical faith require?

We are given a great biblical definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1+2.

****Please project... *As well as Hebrews 11:6 (shortly thereafter)***

1) Biblical Faith Requires Relationship

We need to know the 'Author & Finisher' of our faith if we are to live a life of faith - as He is the One Who gives us our faith. ****Rom.12:3c***

Without *knowing* God, we can't live a life of true, biblical faith; the relationship breeds faith, it grows faith and sustains it. The only way to know God, is *through* Christ.

"Spirituality is not a formula, it is a relationship; it is not about competency but intimacy. It is not about perfection but connection. The way of the spiritual life begins where we are now - in the mess of our lives - as we come to know The Way."

2) Biblical Faith Requires Action

God's Word in our *minds* and on our *tongues* - produces *God's will in and through* our lives.

As we fix our minds and our hearts *on Christ and His Word* (which is real faith), it will always result in action. ****James 2:14, +18***

"The true, living faith - which the Holy Spirit instills into the heart - simply cannot be idle." - Martin Luther (Protestant Reformer)

It takes both faith and works to get anywhere in the Christian life.

3) Biblical Faith Requires Obstacles

Without struggles and times of doubt, faith will often either remain where it is or even begin to fade - which is one reason why God allows or even brings challenges into our lives - so that He can strengthen or faith and resolve *to trust Him in all things*.

Ultimately God desires to develop us into great people of faith who will bring Him glory.

We can't become who God wants us to be for *His* kingdom and glory, without going through whatever He has for us.

Why do we have to go through all of this for the sake of faith? ****1 Pet. 1:6-9***

Our circumstances never define God. *"If He does, He is God; If He doesn't - He remains God"*.

"The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust Him... & the simpler & more childlike our faith will be."

Part of the purpose for our struggles, is so that we will know Him. ****Mt. 18:2-4***

4) Faith Requires Perseverance ****1 Cor. 15:58***

Oftentimes the Christian life feels like a twelve round fight - where you are getting knocked down every round.

Perseverance is necessary in the faith because when it feels like we can't get up to face another round, that's where the *proper* object of faith comes in; *the object of faith, isn't ourselves.

"Faith doesn't operate in the realm of the possible - as there is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible; faith begins, where man's power ends." - George Muller