

Principles of Faith

INTRODUCTION

Review

- § Faith is the natural human system for influencing the heart of man.
- § The heart is programmed by what we choose to accept as true – *why I am the way I am*
- § Faith is a human action of the soul where one chooses to depend upon something as truth – to believe it as true.
- § Faith is an act of volition – a choice – Jn 3:16; Mt 23:37 – *we have chosen to be how we are*
- § An act of faith, ie believing something to be true does not require visible evidence – 2Cor 5:7
- § Faith is the **mechanics** of accepting truth and allowing it to influence the heart – Rom 3:22,25,28 – *How I got this way and how do I change*
- § Believing the truth is the mechanics of receiving the truth – Jn 1:12.
- § Faith is God’s only requirement for receiving His grace blessings.
- § Faith is the only action God will allow us to receive His grace blessings – Eph 2:8-9
- § Faith is also the natural human system for applying any concept to experience – we act on what we believe in at any given moment.

Habitual choice – the result of choosing a certain belief for application over time; continually choosing a belief for application creating a habit of choice.

- § When any concept is used over and over as the basis of action it becomes a habitual thought process carried out by the subconscious – automatic response – unaware, unfelt choice
- § Habitual choosing creates well worn pathways in the neuron structure of the brain – *magal* – paths; wagon ruts; worn places in the road from use – Psm 23:3 – paths of righteousness.
- § Habitual choosing causes enslavement of the volition to operate within the wagon ruts in the soul – Rom 6:16 – slaves to sin or God.
- § Habitual choice can only be broken by conscious rejection of the old belief and conscious choosing of the new – Eph 4:22-24; Heb 12:1-2.

1. Faith always has an object – content.

- a. Faith does not operate without an object – faith in who or what?
- b. Faith is always directed toward or placed in a thought, concept/principle – the object/content.
- c. Faith as found in the bible can mean either the act of believing or the content of what is believed – “the faith” – Rom 14:1; 1Cor 16:13.
- d. Volition unites faith with the object - Heb 4:2 – attaching faith to the promise of God – *sugkerannumi* – to unite; to mix together; to combine; to arrange together (1Cor 12:24).

- e. The content of faith determines the merit of faith – 1Cor 2:5 – faith in the wisdom of man or power of God; 1Thess 2:10-12 – truth or lie.
- f. The content of faith determines the impact on the heart – Jer 17:5-8.
- g. The content of faith determines our eternal destiny – Jn 3:36.
- h. The content of faith determines success or failure in the spiritual life
- i. The content of faith is the most important issue in our lives.
- j. The content of faith is designed to be the word of God – Rom 10:17

2. Faith is the divinely designed method of receiving the grace blessings that God desires to bestow upon His children.

- a. Heb 11:6 – faith in God’s existence – rewards us for seeking Him.
- b. Jn 1:12 – believe and receive Christ – become children of God
- c. Mt 21:21; Eph 1:9 – receive the power of God
- d. Gal 3:9; Heb 4:2; 6:12 – promises of God.
- e. Eph 3:17 – mind of Christ – spiritual renovation and transformation.
- f. Eph 6:16 – protection from the forces of evil
- g. Rom 15:13 – joy and peace
- h. Victory – 1Jn 5:4 – over the world; Mk 5:36 – over death.

3. Christian faith places the invisible principles taught by the word of God as more reliable than the visible things discernible by human wisdom - 2 Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

- § Walk – *peripateo* PAI – walk around; order one’s life; determine one’s attitudes & behaviors.
- § Faith – belief + content – trust in the principles of the word of God – we determine our attitudes and behaviors based on our faith in the word of God.
- § Not sight – *eidōs* – appearance; visible phenomena – human logic based on observable phenomena.
 - a. God is invisible and our faith in Him is based on logic that goes beyond our human senses.
 - b. God’s word teaches us concepts that do not agree with human logic.
- § Resolve conflicts through grace and love rather than power.
- § Give love even when it is refused rather than only when it is given.
 - c. God’s word teaches us that we will “see when we believe”.
 - d. Human logic teaches us to “believe only when we see”.
 - e. Faith in the invisible God and His word enables us to visualize invisible spiritual principles and realities – Heb 11
- § Vs 3 – creation of the universe
- § Vs 7 – the flood
- § Vs 11-12 – birth of Isaac
 - f. Faith/word of God causes us to see blessing in adversity – Jms 1:2-4.

- g. Faith/word of God enables to be confident while facing death – Psm 23:4.
- h. Faith/word of God enables us to visualize the Person of God – Heb 11:27.
- i.

4. Faith starts small and increases through spiritual growth.

- a. Faith failure – Mt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31 – *oligopistos* – “little faith” – *oligos* – small, little, insufficient; *pistis* – faith – insufficient faith.
- b. Mt 6:30 – worry; Mt 8:26 – fear; Mt 14:31 – doubt
- c. Initial faith – Mt 17:20; Lk 17:6 – grain of mustard seed – tiny seed.
- d. In the initial stages of faith in any particular principle, our faith is often weak.
- e. **Mark 9:24 immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"**
- f. Initially faith is a choice unaccompanied by emotional confidence.
- g. The power is in God and His word, not in our faith – even the smallest amount of faith opens the door for God to act according to His word – Mt 17:20 – move mountains.
- h. Even small faith in the truth of God activates the power of God.
- i. Small faith grows as we experience God’s faithfulness through the different aspects of life.

§ 2Thess 1:3-4 – super growth under adversity

§ Jms 1:2-4 – maturity resulting from growth through adversity

§ 2Cor 10:15 – growth in faith producing growth in service

- j. Faith grows into complete confidence and certainty – 2Tim 1:12

§ I know – *oida* – PF – know intimately through experience

§ Him I have believed – *pisteuo* – PF – to trust; to believe completely – Paul knows the Lord through His experiences with Him and has trusted Him completely.

§ Been persuaded – *peitho* – PFPI – to be convinced by the actions of another; complete confidence that results from the proven reliability of another – God has proven Himself repeatedly & Paul has come to a place of complete confidence

- k. Complete confidence & certainty produces max effect in prayer – 1Jn 5:14-15; Jms 1:5-8.