

## A CHRISTIAN LIVES BY FAITH

Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:7

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** A person who responds to hearing the gospel by believing in Jesus Christ has acted in "faith" that the gospel is true and that he/she has been given eternal life. "Faith" is being convinced of something which produces action. The person who obeys the gospel is said to be faithful to the Lord and Christians are referred to as "the household of faith." No doubt "faith" is the main principle of the Christian's life for it is fundamental to his/her salvation and it is necessary to live as God wants. Yet, "faith" can be misunderstood and even neglected by the Christian.

### I. WHAT FAITH MEANS FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. "Faith" involves the idea of belief.
  - The certainty or conviction of some truth or proposition offered.
    - Such as believing in things about Jesus and His kingdom - Acts 8:12
  - Having such "faith" or conviction comes from God's Word - Romans 10:17
2. "Faith" involves the idea of confidence.
  - It is the willingness to place one's trust and reliance on someone else.
    - Such as placing one's trust in God and that God is reliable - Romans 4:3, 20-22
  - The Christian is to have such "trust" in God - 1 Peter 4:19
3. "Faith" involves the idea of fidelity.
  - It is someone who is loyal, committed and can be trusted.
    - A faithful steward is one who is reliable - 1 Corinthians 4:2
  - A Christian's "faith" is to last all the way to the point of death - Revelation 2:10, 13
  - A faithful Christian is one who believes in the Word of God, has confidence in the Person of God and is him/herself loyal and trustworthy in the service of God.

### II. A CHRISTIAN IS TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH

1. Living a life of faith involves confessing one's faith.
  - It is publicly acknowledging one's belief in Jesus Christ.
  - It is something one must do in being saved - Romans 10:9-10
  - It is something the Christian does throughout his/her life - Matthew 10:32, 33; 1 John 4:15
  - Living a life of faith is never being ashamed to admit belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Living a life of faith involves living by faith.
  - It is conducting one's life with complete trust in Jesus Christ - Galatians 2:20
  - It is trusting in the works of Jesus, not one's own and that Jesus' death was truly for one's sins - 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Titus 3:5-7
  - It is trusting the words of Jesus and living according to His words - Matthew 6:33, 34; Luke 6:46-48
3. Living a life of faith involves benefiting by faith.
  - It is enjoying the blessings that comes from a life of faith.
    - Such as joy, peace, hope and power - Romans 15:13
  - Through one's faith in Jesus Christ, the Christian receives such blessings. Ephesians 3:12; Philippians 4:6-7, 13

- The Christian's life of faith is rewarded even though his/her faith is primarily concerned about the life to come.

4. Living a life of faith maintains one's faith.

- It causes one to remain steadfast in his/her faith in Jesus Christ.

- Faith can turn into unbelief at times, therefore there is strong need to hold on to one's faith.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Hebrews 3;12-19; 4:1-2, 11

- To maintain faith, one must add to it other things such as virtue, knowledge, self-control, etc.

- 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18

**CONCLUSION:**

1. A Christian is a person who should take his/her faith very seriously.

- It is essential to his/her salvation.

- It is essential to living the life God wants and to receive blessings now and to come.

2. Christian! Are YOU living by faith?

- Do you believe what has been revealed about Jesus Christ?

- Do you trust, have confidence in Jesus that He can indeed deliver what He promises?

- Are you a trustworthy disciple of Jesus, someone He can count on to be faithful?