

HOW REAL IS YOUR FAITH?

Matthew 9:29

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus healed people about every day and their healings were under different circumstances and the instructions given by Him were varied, but always, without exception, there was one thing absolutely necessary and that was the element of "faith." In the text two blind men approached Jesus and asked Him to heal their blindness and Jesus asked them if they really believed He could and upon their answer, He then stated: *"...according to your faith, be it unto you..."* Here is the foundation "stone" of one's relationship with the Lord Jesus. "According to one's faith..." So the question for today is "How Real is Your Faith?"

1. All Christians know and talk about Jesus Christ.

- To some Christians, however, Jesus is a religious thought, idea, but not a real, living person.
- Some talk about Jesus as if He were real, but in reality live and act as if He is not.
- The way one lives his/her life day by day reveals whether one's faith is real or pretense.

2. Some who think they have true, real faith may be shocked to find out the truth.

- Just talk about having faith does not prove one has true faith.
- True faith directs one's life in the way the Lord wants.
- When one's faith is tested by the events of life, then will be revealed the trueness of that "faith."

3. Many work at living the "Christian" life without actually being too deeply involved in it.

- One works things out in his/her life so that God's help is not actually needed but leave the impression that he/she is asking for God's guidance.
- Some talk about the "Lord did this or that for me..." but the Lord never was invited nor asked to be a part of that person's affairs.
- Some people just don't want to ask anything from anybody, even of the Lord.
- Where is true faith?

4. Some Christians have "plan B" just in case God doesn't do things their way as they have asked.

- True, real faith has no "plan B's" or any other way.
- True faith is either God does it or it doesn't get done.
- God has never failed a single person who put his/her real faith/trust in Him.

5. Those of a weak, pretend faith will work hard at not allowing him/herself to ever get into a situation where his/her future depends entirely upon "faith in the Lord."

- These people always have a "second" plan, another way to do things their own way, there is just no total trust in the Lord God.

6. God needs His Christians, His Family, His Church to trust Him completely today as they are trusting Him for a place in Heaven and an eternity there with the Lord Jesus.

- There is coming a time for every person when there is ONLY God.
 - Health will be gone, friends will be gone, wealth will be gone, homes will be gone, all will be gone EXCEPT God.
- To those whose faith is weak, even empty, the very thought of not having anything of their own, only God, it is terrifying and feared.

- To those whose faith is real, it is something to look forward to with much excitement and also one of the most comforting thoughts.

CONCLUSION:

1. What about those whose "faith" is weak or is false, empty when there is nothing, nobody left but God?

- A life wasted in "falseness" of faith, relying upon one's own resources rather than God.
- It would be so much better to get things right with God now, admit the falseness and pretense of one's faith, bring out into the open the life of a lie having been lived, than to continue to live the life of a lie and not receive God's wonderful things awaiting the true, real faithful Christian.

2. There is but one cure for a weak, false, pretend faith and that is a sure, real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Every day that goes by, everybody is one day closer to standing before the very one in whom trust and faith was not given or was given.

3. So, Christian, how real is your faith?

- Does faith, trust in the Lord Jesus guide and control your life?
- Do you talk about faith but your life does not show it?
- Your daily life reveals the kind of faith you have.

4. "...According to your faith, be it unto you...."