

## THE YARDSTICK OF LIFE

Romans 10:11-17; Matthew 9:29

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Sooner or later everyone is going to stand before the Lord and give an account of his/her life. What one has done and not done will be looked at. What do YOU plan to accomplish with your life? God has His measuring "stick" by which He measures your accomplishments and that measuring stick is FAITH. It is according to one's faith, not one's fame, friends, feelings, finances, etc., but Faith. "According to your faith be it unto you..." So, what exactly is the kind of Faith God wants us to have and how does one get it?

### I. FAITH IS THE OPPOSITE OF UNBELIEF

1. Go to the store to get something, it requires money. When one goes to God, it requires FAITH.
2. Faith is the greatest asset one can have - Unbelief is the greatest liability.
3. What caused Eve to sin against God in the Garden? What kept Israel away from the promised land for so long? What led to the rejection of Jesus when He was here? UNBELIEF
4. What sends people to hell every day? Murder? Perversion? Lying? It is UNBELIEF.
5. *"...He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he has not believed..." (John 3:18)*
6. What shuts the door to heaven? UNBELIEF !
7. Believe in God and all things are possible. Do not believe and nothing is possible.

### II. THE BIBLE KIND OF FAITH

1. *"...Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed..." (v.11)*
2. Faith in just anything is not biblical faith - faith in what? Faith isn't some magic word that will cause things to happen just because you use the word.
  - What good is "faith" in an idol?
  - To move mountains, is it one's "faith" or does God actually move the mountains?
3. Positive thinking is not biblical faith.
  - Sooner or later one is going to get discouraged and stop thinking positively and become negative, even cynical, then what?
  - Satan is good at causing one to become sad, depressed, even cynical and therefore that person's so called "faith" is very weak, if any left at all.
  - *"...looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:2)*
  - The bible kind of faith is not looking at anything but the Lord Jesus.
4. God honors even one's weak faith when that faith is in the right thing. Strong faith in the wrong thing doesn't get God's attention.
  - Remember when a father brought his son to Jesus for healing and Jesus told him *"...if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth..." (Mark 9:23)*
    - This father had the right kind of faith for it was in the right thing and his son was healed.
  - To develop great faith, get to know God for *"...whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed..."*

### III. THE FOUNDATION OF THE BIBLE KIND OF FAITH

1. *"...How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?.....So then FAITH cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God..." (Romans 10:14, 17)*
2. In order to have the bible kind of faith, one must hear from God and one cannot know God's will by simply guessing at it. FAITH comes according to the Word of God - Scripture.
  - Faith is not "generated," it comes - God gives it.
  - *"...saved by grace through faith, but that faith is not of your own, it is the gift of God..."*
  - The Bible kind of faith comes by hearing the Lord through His Word.
3. The Bible kind of faith is the substance of what one hopes for. It is the evidence of things one cannot see.
  - Hope in the bible means an assurance based on the promise of God.
  - Hope is mixed with anticipation.
  - Jesus is coming back because He said so and our faith in His return is based on what God has said.
  - The foundation of the Bible kind of faith is the Word of God.

### IV. THE RESULTS OF THE BIBLE KIND OF FAITH

1. The result of the bible kind of faith is the will of God being accomplished here on earth.
  - As one communicates with the Lord, He speaks and tells one what to do, that is His will.
  - One does exactly what the Lord has told him/her to do and that is faith, that is God in control.
  - Doing what God wants one to do increases his/her faith.
2. The Bible kind of faith does more than "simply" believe, it acts, it obeys.
  - If one's faith doesn't cause action, then that person doesn't really believe.
  - The Bible kind of faith has "legs on it."
  - How many have heard the truth but have never done anything about it? They didn't obey.

### CONCLUSION:

1. How does your life "measure up" to God's standards?
2. What exactly do you have "faith" in more than anything else?
3. The Bible kind of faith, the kind of faith that will bring God's blessings, that will bring spiritual growth is obedient faith, faith with "feet."
4. One's faith will be released when one shows God his/her faith by OBEYING God's Word.
5. Everyone will stand before the Lord someday and give an account of his/her life. If YOU want to "measure up" to God's standards, then live your life according to God's standards NOW by putting your faith in His Word and then doing it.