

Faith

2 Peter 1:5

Introduction:

- A. Faith is foundation of “Christian Graces”.
 - 1. Figure of chorus or symphony is used. Start with faith rest blended in.
 - 2. First of “these things” of verses 8-15.
- B. “Faith” will be examined from four angles:
 - 1. Faith Defined.
 - 2. Faith Generated.
 - 3. Faith Exercised.
 - 4. Faith Maintained.

Discussion:

II. The Definition of Faith.

- A. Basic meaning: Firm persuasion...(akin to peitho, “to persuade”) - Vine.
- B. Biblical meaning:
 - 1. Used subjectively
 - a. Of what one believes (2 Thess. 3:2).
 - b. Of the degree of that belief. (Mt. 6:30; Lk. 7:9).
 - 2. Used objectively (Jude 3; 1 Tim. 5:8).
 - 3. Used with implied object being Deity and divine revelation.
 - 4. Generally used of belief in unseen realities of divine revelation. (cf. John 20:29; Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 5:6-9).

III. The Generation of Faith

- A. Not by direct divine touch.
 - 1. Calvinism's problem: A heart closed by total depravity, incapable of faith.
 - 2. Calvinism's solution: Direct divine intervention to prepare heart to believe. (Cf. Presbyterian's statement to me about how it works.)
- B. But by indirect divine testimony.
 - 1. Rom. 10:6-17.
 - a. No need now for direct touch to produce faith. (vs. 6-7 cf. Jno. 20:27-29).
 - b. Need only the preached word. (v. 8-17).
 - 2. John 17:20 -- “Believe through their word”.
 - 3. John 6:44-46 -- God draws through hearing and learning.
 - 4. Rom. 1:15,16 -- Preached gospel has power to save. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:21).
 - 5. 1 Pet. 1:23-25 -- Born again by the word preached.

IV. The Exercise of Faith

- A. By obedience to the faith. (Acts 6:7; Rom. 1:5; Acts 16:30-34).
- B. By a working faith. (James 2:14-26).
- C. By adding virtue, etc. (text)

V. The Maintenance of Faith

- A. Faith needs to grow. (2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Cor. 10:15).
 - 1. By growing in knowledge of word that produces faith. (cf. 2 Pet. 3:18)
 - 2. By experience in practicing the word. (2 Pet. 1:8).
- B. Faith can be lost. (Heb. 3:12; 1 Tim. 4:1).

Conclusion:

- A. N.T. faith is not faith in faith, but faith the gospel.
- B. N.T. faith is not produced miraculously, but by preached word.
- C. N.T. faith needs to be maintained and exercised or will be lost.