

The Faith Principle

The Holy Scriptures give us insight into the lives of certain men, women and young people whose hearts were filled with towering faith. In our generation, when we read and meditate upon the Bible text, we are able to discern the significance of faith in action and how it leads to our Father's good pleasure. Unlike others whose minds were burdened with unbelief, these men and women lived triumphantly in walking with God by faith (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7). In his epistle, John writes, "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4 KJV).

Contrary to thoughts of the worldly mind, a man or woman of faith is not someone who has swallowed a "gullible pill." An individual driven by faith is not one who has chosen to wear blinders and is willing to make a supposed "leap in the dark" unaware of where his landing might be.

The first couple was defeated in the Garden of Eden as they allowed Satan to undermine their faith in God. Satan wanted Adam and Eve to question whether God truly had their best interest at heart in his forbidding them to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (cf. Genesis 3:5). A stronger faith on their part would have empowered them against the temptation to succumb. Unbelief and distrust are favorite tools Satan continues to employ to wield victory over the weak and faithless.

Hebrews Chapter 11 gives us some of the more notable examples of men and women who were embraced by God and received testimony of his favor. God was well pleased with them since they exemplified faith in their lives even in the face of staunch opposition. You and I, too, can equally be pleasing to God by exhibiting our faith in this world of darkness and skepticism.

In our world, there are things that are presently seen, and things that are unseen. Paul teaches the Corinthian brethren to put their focus on the things that are unseen as they are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18). In one sense in which "faith" is used, it relates to the confidence we have in those things we cannot presently see with our eyes whether having occurred in the past (such as the Creation) or to occur in the future (for instance, the Judgment and dispensing of rewards, etc.).

God has spoken to man (Hebrews 1:1-2). He has revealed many truths within the pages of Scripture to both govern our lives and direct us forward on our pilgrimage in hope. Faith is built upon the foundation of knowing that God is always truthful, has our best interest at heart, and will keep his word. Since God has not, will not and cannot lie (Titus 1:2), we are as certain (if not more so) of the things we cannot presently see, as we are about the things we do see. Let's walk with God!

By Tim Childs