THE IDENTIFYING OF FAITH

Text: Ephesians 2:8,9; James 1:3; Jude 3

Intro: The term FAITH is used 3 different ways in the Bible. There are others words which mean the same thing as faith. Trust and believe mean the same thing as faith. It is impossible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6 If you want to please God, you better know a lot about this word FAITH. Let's put our minds and hearts into the subject of FAITH. Let's identify faith and see what the Bible says about it.

I. THE FAITH OF SALVATION

A. The definition of faith

1. The faith in salvation is πίστις which means firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing, is used in the New Testament always of faith in God or Christ or things spiritual.

2. The main elements in faith in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from faith in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, πιστέυω;

3. The main elements are (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgment of God's revelation of truth. (2) A personal surrender to Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.

4. The dictionary defines it as believe or trust. These are Bible terms also. Acts 16:31

B. The depth of faith

1. You may ask someone, "Are you saved?" You explain by asking, "Have you repented of sin and trusted Jesus to save your soul?"

2. Faith is a very deep subject. Do not take anything for granted! Many say they have faith in God, but do not have faith in Him.

3. Many have a head knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. A head knowledge is simply agreeing with what is said about Jesus Christ. They mentally accept what has been said about Jesus to be the truth.

4. There is a vast difference between a head knowledge and a heart knowledge about Jesus Christ. While you may accept the truth that is said about Jesus, it is not the same as trusting Jesus to save your soul.

5. There is a great deal of difference between a head acceptance and a heart reception of Jesus Christ. Many believe with the head, but do not put their faith in Jesus. Romans 10:9,10

C. The deliverance of faith

1. Too many people have a head reception of Jesus! You can tell because this kind of reception doesn't change many things.

2. True faith in Jesus Christ is evidenced by a great change in one's life. Real and true faith takes place inside and works outward.

3. Through the New Birth we are given a new nature that is godly and divine. We are partakers of a divine nature. II Peter 1:4

4. We are to put on the new man which is created after God in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24

5. We were dead in trespasses and sins and now we are made alive unto God. Ephesians 2:1 Paul also described the way we use to live and be. Ephesians
D. The deception in faith
1. The difference between a head knowledge and a heart reception is great.
2. You can make a great mistake in settling for something less than a New Birth experience. There are a lot of religious people who are not redeemed.
3. They have a head knowledge, but they have not had a heart experience whereby they were changed and experienced the New Birth.
4. I feel like this may be a bigger problem than we think it is even in our work.
5. Many make a profession at a young age. They may not understand as much as they need to understand. They make a profession of faith, are baptized, and become church members, but do not know Jesus as personal Savior.

E. The Devil and faith
1. The Devil is in the blinding business. He will blind the lost to their condition and the way to deal with the lost condition.
2. He blinds the minds of those who believe not, lest they see the light of the glorious gospel and are saved. II Corinthians 4:3,4
3. The Devil appears as an angel of light and can make his servants appear that way also. II Corinthians 11:13-15
4. Those who are not saved will have a lot of doubts and questions because the Holy Spirit will continue to convict them of their lost condition. John 16:7-11
5. The Devil wants the lost to settle for anything and everything, but he doesn't want them to be saved.

F. The demonstration of faith
1. James went into length and details about the fact faith will demonstrate itself.
2. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:17 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" V20
3. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." V26
4. Study very closely and diligently Matthew 7:15-20. The saved will produce fruit.
5. The agape love is an evidence that a person is saved. I John 3:14 God's love is also an evidence of discipleship. John 13:34,35

II. THE FAITH OF SERVICE
A. The definition of faith
1. The faith in salvation is pistis which means firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing, is used in the New Testament always of faith in God or Christ or things spiritual.
2. The main elements in faith in its relation to the invisible God, as distinct from faith in man, are especially brought out in the use of this noun and the corresponding verb, pistuo;
3. The main elements are (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgment of God's revelation of truth, (2) A personal surrender to Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.
4. This faith is the faith that we live by and with. It is trusting the Lord for our daily needs and the needs we have to serve Him.

B. The dependance of faith
1. Faith means to rely upon, trust in, and put our faith in Jesus Christ. The model prayer teaches us to do this on a daily basis.
2. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:9-11
3. Read and study what the wise man wrote about trust or faith in Proverbs 3:5,6. We can and are to trust Him with the whole heart.
4. We are to have faith in God. We are to trust the Lord for those things that we stand in need of daily.

C. The diligence of faith
1. The Lord continually teaches us not to be afraid or full of fear. This is what Moses told Joshua. Joshua 1:6-9
2. We may think we are trusting the Lord, but we may not be trusting Him. You can examine your attitude and mind to see if you are or not.
3. Real true faith means you go to the Lord about a need or matter and you turn it over to Him. You trust Him for the outcome.
4. If you go into a dangerous surgery real faith trusts the Lord whether you live or die.

D. The delight of faith
1. Faith will always help you overcome the troubles and trials in your life. I John 5:4,5
2. It is a wonderful thing to have sweet peace of heart and mind in your situation. Philippians 4:7
3. It is wonderful to experience the rest and assurance in times of trouble when we trust the Lord for the outcome.
4. Hebrews 11 is a wonderful chapter in God's holy Word. True faith drives fear away. True faith drives doubt away also.

E. The desire of faith
1. Faith desires the Lord to give the strength to do His will in daily life. Philippians 4:13
2. Faith desires the Lord to supply our needs as we serve Him and try to carry out His will for our lives. Philippians 4:19
3. Faith desires the Lord to show us the way when things look dark and troublesome for us. Psalm 23:3
4. Faith desires to be settled down in the storms of life. People and troubles can bother us and disturb us, but faith can do a work in us. Philippians 4:7
5. Faith desires to serve the Lord in whatever way we can. Faith will enable us to present our bodies a living sacrifice to Him. Romans 12:1

III. THE FAITH OF THE SCRIPTURES
A. The definition of faith

1. The faith in the Scriptures is *pistis* which means:
   (1) a firm conviction, producing a full acknowledgment of God's revelation of truth. (2) A personal surrender to Him. (3) A conduct inspired by such surrender.

2. Jude spoke of the faith once delivered to the saints. This speaks of a system of teaching or revelation of truth.

3. God's Word, the Bible, has been given to His people once for all. It is to be proclaimed as it is to men as they are.

4. Most Christian faiths have a doctrinal statement. This is a concise list of teachings they believe and stand for.

B. The Devil and faith

1. The Devil is in the blinding business. He will blind the minds of man to the truth. II Corinthians 4:3,4

2. The Devil in character is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 He is deceptive in nature. II Corinthians 11:13-15

3. In the garden He causes doubt in Eve, "Yea hath God said Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1

4. Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, the Devil doesn't want people to hear Bible preaching and teaching. Romans 10:17

C. The deliverance of faith

1. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

2. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

3. The truth will make people free. Falsehood and lies will ensnare and enslave people, but the truth frees.

4. Paul was assured the Lord delivered us, does deliver us, and will yet deliver us. II Corinthians 1:10

D. The devotion of faith

1. Jude instructed those he wrote to, to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Text.

2. We are to be defenders of the faith. We are to take our stand for the Word of God and teach it as purely as we possibly can.

3. The Lord and His apostles were constantly dealing with religious error and lies in their ministries. Matthew 15:8,9

4. The truth must mean more to you than religion or the way you were brought up. John 14:21-23

5. We ought to be Bible believers and teachers. We ought to form our beliefs on the Bible. Too many form a belief and go to the Bible to have it verified.

6. Too many are devoted to religion, but they are not devoted to the truth of God's Word.

E. The doctrine and faith

1. The Bible is the inspired or God breathed Word of God. II Timothy 3:16

2. The Bible is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3:16,17

3. We are to desire the sincere milk of the Word that we may grow thereby. I Peter 2:1,2

4. The psalmist teaches us what the Lord's Word is good for in Psalm 19:7-11.

5. The psalmist teaches us the Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Charles Swilling P O Box 846 Hughes Springs TX 75656

---

AVAILABLE BOOKS

38th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
39th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
40th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
41st Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
42nd Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
43rd Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
A Study of Psalm 119 by J.W. Griffith
Bible Lesson Work Book by Mike Daniel
Clark's Counsel to Corinth by Neal Clark
Discipulado Bíblico Basico by Raymond McAlister
Discipulado (Spanish) by Marvin Prevost
Ensenanza Bíblica (Spanish) by Charles Swilling
Faithfulness of Deacons by John Gillmore
Finding your Way by Sammy Eldredge
Fire in the Soul or Soul in the Fire by Kenneth Click
Illustrations Which Illustrate by Don Shultz
Ministerial Burnout by Charles Swilling
Morals, the Master, and Me by Kenneth Click
My Old Notebook by Neal Clark
Object Lessons for Every Age by Muncy Harris
Outlines of Malachi by O.H. Griffith
Outlines by Luther Crawford
Outlines of Philippians by Ray O. Brooks
Outlines of Colossians by Ray O. Brooks
Outlines on the Holy Spirit by Vernon Lierly
The Principles of Discipleship by Paul Magness
The Family by Sammy Eldredge
The Jordan Divided, the Healing of the Spring. and Other Miracles of Elisha by O.H. Griffith
The Finished Work of Christ by Elvin Crocker
The Revelation of Jesus Christ by John Turrentine Jr.
The Fundamentals of Christian Living by Michael Crane
The Second Mile by George Crawford
The Salvation of the Lord (Reprint) by Charles Swilling
Victory In Jesus by Jesse Sparlock
Waiting for the Sun Rise by L. Chester Guinn
What If This Were Your Last Day to Live? by Gordon Shaffer
What Young Preachers Need to Know by Herbert Brown
& George Crawford
What are You Waiting For? by J.B. Powers
What Will you do with Jesus? by Kenneth Bazar
Who the Lord Is by Glen Tropp
Women for His Vessels by Violeta B. Hayes
SERIES: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS!
FOCUS: REDEMPTION
TEXT: I PETER 1:28-23
INTRODUCTION:

A. REVIEW
   Justification.
   Regeneration
   Imputation.
   Sanctification.
   Reconciliation.

B. RESULTS -
Understanding these words should activate us in our decision making processes so that we will be DELIVERED - DEVELOPED - and as such, become DIVINE DEMONSTRATIONS of His Grace.
1. Acknowledgment is great.
2. Activation is crucial.

C. REVELATION - REDEMPTION.
1. OBSERVATIONS about REDEMPTION!
2. OUTCOME of REDEMPTION!
3. OBVIOUS need of REDEMPTION!

I. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT REDEMPTION!
A. SENSED - Redemption means to purchase and set free by paying a price.

B. SCRIPTURES:
   1. Revelation 5:9 - Agorazo - means to buy in the market place.
   3. Romans 3:24 - Apolutrosis - means to deliver by paying the ransom price.
   4. All mankind was at one time in the slave market of sin and death.
   5. The only way for man to be purchased was for one, without sin, to come and pay the purchased price.
   6. This is exactly what Christ did for us - text.

II. OUTCOME OF REDEMPTION
A. Set free from ENSLAVEMENT:
   1. Illustrate Israel in Egyptian bondage.

B. Set free for INVOLVEMENT:
   1. Enjoyment of SONSHIP.
   2. Enjoyment of FELLOWSHIP.
   3. Enjoyment of DISCIPLESHIP.
   4. Enjoyment of AMBASSADORSHIP.

Redeemed - how I love to proclaim it.
Redeemed by the blood of the lamb.
Redeemed through his infinite mercy.
His child and forever I am.

III. OBVIOUS NEED OF REDEMPTION!
A. Enslaved to sin.
   1. Sin promises freedom but brings slavery.
   2. Sin promises joy and ultimately brings pain.

B. Are you free?
Glen Tropp 402 Shenandoah Dr., Benton AR 72015

BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN COPIED
1982 Bible Conference Outlines
1989 Bible Conference Outlines
1990 Bible Conference Outlines
A B C's of Faith by O.H. Griffith
Going All the Way by Glen Tropp
Mysteries of the New Testament by Herbert Brown
Notes on John Chapters 1-3 by Glen Tropp
Outlines by Kenneth Bazar
Outlines of Ephesians by Ray O. Brooks
Reflections of the Heart by Dovie Brown
Right Sermons by Wright by D.B. Wright
Scanning the Scriptures I by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures II by Glen Tropp
Scanning the Scriptures (NT) by Glen Tropp
Sermon Outlines by Raymond Howard

Sounding Out the Word I
Sounding Out the Word II
Sounding Out the Word III
Sounding Out the Word IV
The Great Conflict by Glen Tropp
The Christian Jubilee by Herbert Brown
Who the Lord Is by Glen Tropp
Word Studies by Glen Tropp

If you want these books, we ask that you send an offering to help us with the copying costs. We copy them in order to keep them available to you.

NO MORAL COMPASS
Yes, we live in a world
Where the moral compass is lost
People spend their time doing evil
And never once count the cost!

They have forgotten about God
Taking no thought of what he said
That their lives will lie open before him
After the world says they are dead.

Dottlee Duggan Reid
What To Do When You Just Don't Know What To Do

Text: 11 Chronicles 20:1-29

(verse 12) "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee."

Introduction: As long as we are in our earthly bodies, there will be times in our lives when we don't know what to do. We need to know that God is still working on us: I Peter 5:10, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." There are four things I try to do in my daily life when I do not know what to do:

1.) I Try Being Patient.
Hebrews 10:35-36, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." James 1:14, "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." Verse 4 "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

2.) I Try Being Prayerful.
Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing: but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God." I Thessalonians 5: 17, "Pray without ceasing."

3.) I Try Being Positive.
Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." I John 4:4, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

4.) I Try Being Productive.
Ecclesiastes 10:18, "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through." I John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue: but in deed and in truth." The secret of patience is doing something else in the meantime." Matthew 12:36,"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

When things are at their worst, we need to apply the principles found here in II Chronicles. Jehoshaphat and all Judah were surrounded by Ammonites. When Jehoshaphat saw his city under siege, he prayed in II Chronicles 20:12, "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee."

We can learn from Jehoshaphat "What to do when you just don't know what to do."

I. WE NEED TO SET OURSELVES TO SEEK THE LORD BY FASTING - II Chronicles 20:3. "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."

II. WE NEED TO ASK FOR HELP FROM THE LORD BY PRAYING - II Chronicles 20:4. "And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord."

III. WE NEED TO HAVE OUR EYES ON JESUS - II Chronicles 20:12, "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us, neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee."

IV. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL COME - II Chronicles 20:14, "Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation;"

V. WE NEED NOT TO BE AFRAID. - II Chronicles 20:16, "And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude: for the battle is not yours, but God's."

VI. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT THE LORD WILL BE WITH US - II Chronicles 20:17, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, 0 Judah and Jerusalem: fear not nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you."

VII. WE NEED TO BELIEVE GOD. - II Chronicles 20:20, "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, 0 Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."

VIII. WE NEED TO PRAISE GOD. -II Chronicles 20:21-24

Books printed in 1998

44th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
Christ is the Answer by Paul Goodwin (Spanish)
Christ is the Answer by Paul Goodwin
Reflections from the Heart by Dovie Brown
Teaching with a Purpose by Muney Harris
The Man who Walked with God by Paul Goodwin
We Want you to Preach the Funeral by Kenneth McInnes
What I Have in Christ by Charles Swilling

Books Available on a Limited Basis

Evangelistic Outlines by Bro. W. H. Hitt
45th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference
PLAYING GAMES AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
JAMES 4:11-17

1. At one time there was a place where people went to play games. The name of the place was "Games People Play."
2. I passed by there one day and the thought came to me, "Games Christians Play." And this Scripture came to mind.
3. Let me give you some games Christians play and then we will talk about them.
4. I want you to see if you have ever played any of them or if you are playing them today.
   a. First, "I don't know why they don't do something about that." This game is played with 'they'.
      1) I don't know why they don't do something about those who make so much noise.
      2) I don't know why they don't do something about those lads who run in the church.
      3) Let me ask a question, Who is 'they'?
   b. Second, "This is the way we have always done it."
   c. Third, "When you have been a Christian as long as I have." You can see the halo over their heads.
   d. Fourth, "I have a right to speak, but you don't."
5. These things are not new.
   a. There was a game played in the days of James. It was called, "Playing God with other people's lives." There are many Christians who play that game today.
   b. If you want to play the game called 'Playing God' today as they played it in James' day, then you must know how the game can be played.
   c. You can play the game with other people or you can play it with your own life.
6. Look at verses 11-17 and you will see how this game really works.
7. I want us to look at three things:
   a. The objective.
   b. The rules.
   c. What God thinks of the game.
8. Verses 11 & 12 talk about playing God with others.

I. PLAYING GAMES WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES. Vss. 11 & 12
A. The objective is to think yourself better than other Christians.
   1. First, you have to put them down.
   2. Second, you have to find fault with them.
   3. Third, you have to look at yourself as one who is qualified to be a critic.
   4. Fourth, put them down in the eyes of other people.
B. The rules are seen in verse 11.
   1. You must speak evil of your brother.
   2. You must do this behind your brother's back.
   3. You must judge your brother.
   4. The verb translated "speak not evil" means literally "Talk another down."
   5. So, if you play the game, you begin to talk down other people.
      a. What you want to do is lower your listeners' opinion of the person you are talking about.
      b. But you must make sure you cover up what you are doing and you cover up by saying, "Now, stop me if I am wrong," or "Perhaps I shouldn't say this about him." or "Do you know what they are saying about him?"
6. This is better known today as "Backbiting."
7. There is no sin that God hates more than this one.
8. James says, "Stop doing that."
9. He says "He that speaketh evil of his brother is in fact lacking in humility, that he is behaving as though the divine privilege of judgment has been assigned to him."

C. Now you move from talking down your brother to judging your brother.
1. The word 'judge' in verse 11 means to pronounce condemnation on a brother.
2. James wants us to know that if we are going to judge a brother we must know every thing about him.
3. In other words, if we are going to condemn him we need to be God, and we are not.
4. We cannot know what is in the heart of another person. (Read Matt. 7:1-5)
5. Jesus and James are teaching the same thing.

D. James says, If you speak evil and judge your brother, then you do that against the law.
1. The law he is speaking of is the law of love that we see in James 2:8 "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well."
2. Our goal should be the building up of one another in love. Not the putting down.
3. Be kind to one another.
4. Not talking down, or judging a brother.
E. Don't play God with other people. You don't qualify.

II. WHAT GOD THINKS OF THE GAME. Vs. 12
A. Read vs. 12. There is only One lawgiver and Judge - that is God.
B. The last part of this verse reads: "But you, who are you that presume to pass judgment on your brother?" A. N. T.
1. There is not anything that will destroy a church, home, association or life more quickly than playing God.
   a. It can be a pastor or deacon.
   b. It can be a wife or husband.
2. Let me tell you something today I can't play this game. I am not qualified and neither are you.
3. How many times have we tried to play the game?
   a. We have judged.
   b. We have talked down other people.
   c. We use other people, pump them up, and they do our work for us. We get them to talk down others.
   d. Many times we don't have the facts.
   e. If we don't have the facts, then we should keep quiet.
III. PLAYING GAMES WITH OUR OWN LIFE. Vss. 13-17
   A. The objective, "Think yourself as final authority over your life and then live like it."
      1. You neglect God and arrange your life as though He did not exist.
      2. Just put God over in a corner and call on Him when you need Him and that won't be very often.
      3. You live as if you are the master of your destiny. Then you will be a perfect game player.
   B. Look at the rules. Vss. 13.
      1. Choose your own time and schedule.
      2. Choose your own location. So you selfishly schedule your life in such a way that you have it your way and never ask God anything.
      3. Limit your stay so that it pleases you. Don't plan a day, plan a year and say to God, "I will do it my way."
   C. You are asking, "Should we not plan in advance?" Sure we should.
      1. If you don't, you are foolish.
      2. But you remember when you plan, make sure that God is not left out. Don't play God with your own life.
      3. You should say, "God, I've made some plans, but You can change them at any time and it will be all right with me."
   D. How does God look at us playing God with our lives? Vss. 14-16
      1. You don't know the least thing about what may happen tomorrow.
         a. You don't know what your life will be like tomorrow.
         b. Some of you are going through some things right now you would have never dreamed it could have happened.
         c. Lives have been changed by sickness, divorce, death, children, jobs.
         d. You don't know what will happen tomorrow; how foolish it is to say, "I will call my own shots. If I need You, God, I will call You."
      2. You have no assurance of a long life. Vss. 14: "Your life is a puff of smoke, a whisp of vapor;" Your life can be here today and gone tomorrow.
      3. Are you ready if your number comes up?
      4. Vss. 15 - You have no right to ignore God in your life.
      5. Vss. 16 - You need to quit rejoicing in your boasting.

CONCLUSION.
1. We need to stop doing the wrong things and start doing the right things.
2. We need to fight our enemy and not each other.
3. There are lost souls out there and our Lord has called us to take the Gospel to them.
4. Let us do what God wants us to do.
5. If any have been guilty of "Playing Games at the Foot of the Cross", ask God to forgive you and let's get to work.

6. God bless you.
Charles Murphy, Sr. 7603 Beech Cove Ln Houston TX 77072

WINNING OUR UNSAVED LOVED ONES
Esther 8:6

Brief outline of the book
I. THE CONDITION OF OUR UNSAVED LOVED ONES
   A. They're lost.
      Over in Luke 15, we have 3 parables:
      1) parable of the lost sheep
      2) ...lost coin
      3) ...lost son
      Lost: what a terrible word. Lost to God; ... heaven; ...the church.
   B. They're perishing
      1) 2 Peter 3:9
      2) 1 Corinthians 1:18
   C. They're condemned
      1) blinded the mind. 2 Cor 4:3-4.
      2) blinded the heart. Eph 4:18
   D. They're spiritually dead. Eph 2:1, 12

II. THE CONCERN WE MUST HAVE.
    Esther got all the Jews to fast and pray about this matter. Esther 4:15-17.
    A. Moses concern for the children of Israel Exodus 32:32
    B. Paul's concern for Israel. Rom 9:3
       It's going to take weeping and praying over our lost loved ones. Psalms 126:5-6

III. THE COMMITMENT WE MUST MAKE.
    Esther went into action.
    A. Her determination--no rest until her loved ones were saved.
    B. Her intercession--if Esther was to get her people delivered, she had to get the king to hold out the golden scepter--a picture of prayer

IV. THE COOPERATION.
    We must work together to get our loved ones saved. Some plant, some water, but it's still God that gives the increase.

Butch Rosito

WALKING BY FAITH
Hebrews 11:6

Introduction: I have chosen the subject of faith because all our hope is based on faith. All the promises that God has made to us are based on faith.
   Won't leave you nor forsake you.
   If I go, I will come back again.
   Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
   How many of us believe this promises?
   How many of us live and conduct our lives as if we believe them?
   Just as the Israelites doubted God when they were before the Red Sea, so do many of us when the Lord calls us to go wherever He is calling us to go.
   But we don't have to be classified with that unfaithful multitude.
   Instead, let us be grouped with those faithful few. But to do this
we must understand why others failed, that we not trip over the same stumbling block and learn what those few did that earned them the title of faithful. Let us consider:

I. THE FAITH OF THOSE GONE BY.
A. Abraham - Heb. 11:8 "he went out, not knowing"
B. Sarah - Heb. 11:11 "She judged him faithful who had promised"
C. Isaiah - Isa. 6:8: 1 1 "Lord, How long?"
D. Job 19:25 - "I know that my redeemer liveth."
E. Paul - 2 Tim. 1:12 "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able..."

There are those that honored God by their faithfulness then there are:

II. THOSE THAT WALKED BY SIGHT.
B. The children of Israel whom Moses delivered. We are willing to follow, but if anything goes wrong, it's your fault.
   1. Ex. 14:11-13 Red Sea
   2. Ex. 16:2-3 Mana
   3. Ex. 17:1-4 Water from the Rock
      Their faith was determined by what they saw. Just as they did, most of us have never learned to walk by faith. Look at what Israel did. Num. 14:1 0-1 1.

We criticize the unfaithful children of Israel and the hypocritical farisees of Jesus' day, but what about us? Are we doing any better they did?

III. ARE WE WALKING BY FAITH?
A. Num. 14:1 0-11 "how long?"
B. Most of what we do as pastors and missionaries, we do in our own strength.
C. Is the Lord satisfied with your faith walk?
D. Are we really trusting God when:
   1. We take matters into our own hands? Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord... "I Cor. 6:7.
   2. Heb. 11:8 - "not knowing where he was going." We want to make sure we are able to live up to the stands that we have accustomed to. And this is why we never can relate to the people we minister to.
   3. Let visit the churches a few months to raise enough money for whatever project. Leave work.
   4. Deputation for 2 years. Where is faith?

E. How long will we not believe?
F. We may be doing much, but is God pleased? Without faith, you can't please God.

Will what you are doing be burned at the end? Are you simply seeking greener pastures?

Conclusion: Lets believe that God is able. Then let us put all our efforts to doing his will. And if it doesn't happen, then lets believe that that's his will for us or whatever situation we are faced with.

Let us become slaves and just trust and obey. Lets become like those that became slaves voluntarily. Deut 15:12-18

Trusting, without a worry, safe and secure, knowing that his master would provide and care for him. All he had to do, was trust and obey. Let us do the same and be counted as faithful.

Al Valladares 513 N 7th McAllen TX 78501

The article above taken from our latest book 45th Annual Pastors and Missionaries Conference.

A FATHER'S LOVE

A loving Father, as he watched his son, Looked on him with pride. He tried to step in his father's footprints, Even tho they were a longer stride.

Dear God, he prayed as I live each day, May your grace be found with me. That I might take the perfect steps, And I might follow thee.

Then as my son reaches my footprints, By your loving grace I'll know. That I have done my very best, That's possible, in this world below

A Father's love is so important, For the spiritual growth of a child. A Christian example for them to follow, Will guide them through many a trial.

Dovie Brown

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS PAPER Please Print

Name: _____________________________
Address: __________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________ Country: ________

"For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Aarchia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak any thing."

I Thessalonians 1:8