

The Foundations of Life Series, Part 5

Faith Unto Salvation and Beyond

The Cliff

A man fell off a cliff, but managed to grab a tree limb on the way down. The following conversation ensued:

“Is anyone up there?”

“I am here. I am the Lord. Do you believe me?”

“Yes, Lord, I believe. I really believe, but I can't hang on much longer.”

“That's all right, if you really believe you have nothing to worry about. I will save you. Just let go of the branch.”

A moment of pause, then: “Is anyone else up there?” *Bits & Pieces, June 24, 1993, p. 3*

(Remember the rich young ruler)

Hebrews 11:1

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Romans 10:17

17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.*

Faith and Salvation are inseparable twins. The one can't exist without the other. Faith is the assurance (Substance, Word) of things hoped (Salvation) for, the conviction (Evidence, Proof of Discipleship, Fruit of the Spirit) of things not seen. Our hope is wrapped up in our Faith in the Word (Bible and Jesus) who is the author and finisher of the Faith (Heaven, Destination). He is the one we can have confidence in who backs up every word in "The Book" so we can be confidence of our Blessed "Hope".

Hebrews 11:1 is both present and future tense in this aspect. The passage relates to how our faith works as our confidence in Him relates to covenantal promises of God. As well future deliverance and ultimate reward.

Now Romans 10:17 talks about the Building Blocks of our Faith and how we foundationally build upon our Holy Faith or Assurance in Him. Simply put it is both hearing and reading the Word of God. Yes, the very feeding of our spirit and soulish realm.

Feeding our Spirit and Soul is what God requires for us to become true children of God. Possessing the promises of God, and storing up treasures in Heaven where Satan Can't Rob and Steal our Stuff. That's right! We need to have our focus of our faith on eternal rewards, by establishing an earthly ministry of obedience which bears fruit with patience and virtue. Warning!!!! if your focus is just on Stuff and its not looking into the crystal ball of God's vision. We will not see the Kingdom building we can do as we pursue our covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Faith Establishes our Place In The Kingdom of God.

It also Preserves and Helps us to Possess Our Place

In God's Kingdom.

Hebrews 11:6

6And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

After faith in Jesus is birthed within us by the Holy Spirit's moving upon the Word. The next great effect produced by God is within the soul and that is the " New Birth " or " Being Born Again " experience. It is where our believing In Him takes on a supernatural transformation. For as we put our trust in Him He translates us into His Kingdom of Light, and recreates us in His Image. Which allows us to begin to take this image which the Spirit of God is producing and starts reflecting the character of Christ working through us. That being the case those around us begin to see the fruit of God's Spirit and know that just like Christ's disciples they can say of you. They've been with Jesus.

1 Peter 1:23

*23You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.**

The seed placed within you is an incorruptible seed. Its one that cannot be compromised or corrupted by the world unless you allow it to be through unbelief. That is why its so important when you first become a believer to go to the church as much as possible and hear the Word. Plus, you have to invest time in studying His Word and talking with Him in a personal prayer life.

I'll never forget when I first began this walk with Christ. I at first was just learning the Word and trying to understand how to become a child of God. Then, one night in a night service I repented and turned my life over to Him. From that night on I had to be in church, I had to read the Word, I had to be in fellowship with God's people. Nothing else seemed to satisfy my soul. Next, a few months later I received the Baptism of The Holy Spirit. Wow! I came back from church and my mother walked in my room a few hours later and immediately started questioning my new found boldness. I mean I was ready to do some devil kicking. Satan immediately wanted to plant unbelief, but God protected me and I was amazed that I had an answer from mom from the Word of God. A few days later she was already remarking about some of the positive differences taking place in my life.

Now I believe the sacraments I received in the Catholic Church were valid, but because of a lack of " Living Faith " it was just static religiosity. After a while though I started to understand what each sacrament meant, whether it was baptism or communion it started to make sense. See my Faith, that Born Again experience was made alive. It was like a resurrection power had raised me up and nothing was going to be the same ever again.

John 3:3

*3Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' **

Being Born Again is a Regenerative Process (Regeneration). It changes us from the inside out. Transforming our attitudes, thoughts, actions and very words into something beautiful in the sight of God.

Consecrated to God

'I doubt, indeed, whether we have any warrant for saying that a man can possibly be converted without being consecrated to God. More consecrated he doubtless can be, and will be as his grace increases; but if he was not consecrated to God in the very day that he was converted and born again, I do not know what conversion means.'" *Bishop Ryle, quoted in J. Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness, p. 38*

Jeremiah 1:5

5Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

The Hebrew word translated *consecrated* in this passage is " Qodesh ". It literally means in this passage a person being set apart for service. A separation for or toward a special task or assignment.

When we become believer's we have been birthed by the Holy Spirit and are separated for the service of the Lord. We are His Children and He has adopted us into His Family.

Daily Strength for Daily Needs Compiled by Mary W. Tileston

October 21

I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect_--GEN. xvii.I.

Consecrate yourselves to-day to the Lord--EX. xxxii. 29.

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;Let them flow in ceaseless praise. F. R. HAVERGAL.

I have noticed that wherever there has been a faithful following of the Lord in a consecrated soul, several things have inevitably followed, sooner or later. Meekness and quietness of spirit become in time the characteristics of the daily life. A submissive acceptance of the will of God as it comes in the hourly events of each day; pliability in the hands of God to do or to suffer all the good pleasure of His will; sweetness under provocation; calmness in the midst of turmoil and bustle; yieldingness to the wishes of others, and an insensibility to slights and affronts; absence of worry or anxiety; deliverance from care and fear;--all these, and many similar graces, are invariably found to be the natural outward development of that inward life which is hid with Christ in God. H. W. SMITH.