

HOW MAY ONE HAVE FAITH IN AN AREA, IF HE DOES NOT EXPOSE HIMSELF?

FAITH IS AVAILABLE TO ALL, IF THEY WILL BELIEVE, EVEN TO MANKIND.

WHAT IS FAITH?.....

FAITH IS WHERE LOGIC OR REASON ENDS...IT IS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING IN THE NATURAL. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THE FORCE, NOT EVEN WITH THE FIVE SENSES...IT IS A FIRM BELIEF IN SOMETHING FOR WHICH THERE IS NO PROOF.

AN ILLUSTRATION....HEALING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF PHYSICIAN OR MEDICATION....ANOTHER...ANSWER TO PRAYER, SUCH AS REMOVAL OF A DESIRE, THAT WE MAY HAVE....OR THE ADDING OF A DESIRE TO PLEASE GOD....MORE ILLUSTRATIONS....GIFT OF TONGUES, SALVATION MESSAGE, AWAKENING OF A SPIRITUAL TRUTH WITHOUT ANY TRYING ON OUR PART...THERE ARE MANY BIBLICAL FACTS....SUCH AS PETER WALKING ON THE WATER, ETC.

DO ALL BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS HAVE FAITH?.....YES.....

HOW DID THEY RECEIVE FAITH?.....BY HEARING...HEARING WHAT?...

ROM 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

DOES ALL MANKIND HAVE FAITH?.....YES.....WHAT KIND?.....
THEY HAVE WORLDLY FAITH...WHAT DO WE MEAN?.....

MAN HAS FAITH IN HIS OWN ACHIEVEMENTS...HE WORSHIPS SELF....HIS OWN ABILITIES...IF AN ELECTRICIAN WIRES A HOME, HE HAS FAITH IT WILL FUNCTION IN THE AREA THAT HE HAS BEEN TRAINED...TRAINED BY WHOM?...MANKIND...FAITH IN WHOM?...SELF AND THE WORLD EDUCATORS.

CAN MAN BRING SPIRITUAL FAITH INTO EXISTENCE?....NO BUT GOD CAN.....

ROM 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

AGAIN WHAT IS FAITH?

HEB 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

YOU DO NOT SEE GRAVITY, WIND OR ELECTRICITY:....YET THEY HAVE SUBSTANCE...WE RECOGNIZE (SEE THE EFFECT) ONLY THE POWER OR FORCE...AS MANKIND HARNESSSES THESE SUBSTANCES, HE BRINGS THEM UNDER HIS CONTROL.

FAITH IS ALWAYS PRIOR TO THE SENSES.....FAITH IS NOT NECESSARY AFTER THE EVIDENCE.....(IN RETRIEVING MY WELL DRILLING BITS, I PROVED WHAT GOD DID, YET THEY (MANKIND) DID NOT BELIEVE).....HOPE IS NOT NECESSARY AFTER THE EVIDENCE...IF THE SUN IS SHINING WE NEED NOT HOPE FOR THE EVIDENCE OR SUBSTANCE....FOR IT IS CLEARLY SEEN.

COULD I, IF I ENDEAVORED ENOUGH, WORK FAITH UP WITH MY OWN STRENGTH?....NO....WHY NOT?....BECAUSE IT WOULD COME FROM MY FLESH, AND THE WORD SAYS, "IN ME, THAT IS IN MY FLESH, THERE IS NO GOOD THING."

LET US FIND SCRIPTURAL FACTS, TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE REGARDING FAITH.

PHI 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

GAL 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

ANOTHER WAY....SINCE IT IS GOD WHO MAKES YOU WILLING AND GIVE YOU THE ENERGY TO DO WHAT HE WANTS, ALSO.....FOR IT IS GOD HIMSELF WHO IS AT WORK IN YOU TO HELP YOU DESIRE IT, AS WELL AS DO IT.....

LET US ALSO REMEMBER THIS VERSE.....

JOH 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

DID WE REDEEM OURSELVES?.....

1PE 1:18-21 Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

NOW...IF FAITH COMES BY HEARING ONLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO BOAST OF ANY ACHIEVEMENT ON OUR PART....WE HEARD....AND HE GAVE THE SUBSTANCE....FACT BELIEVING.....OR FAITH BELIEVING?

WE FIND AN ILLUSTRATION REGARDING **FACT BELIEVING** IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH WE ARE ALL PRONE TO FOLLOW...THOMAS MADE THE STATEMENT: "I WILL NOT BELIEVE UNTIL I SEE AND TOUCH.".....FACT BELIEVING.....DID THOMAS SIN?...DID THOMAS HAVE FAITH?.....IS NOT BELIEVING REQUIRED US?...YES, IT SAYS, "FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR AND THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN....NOT WHAT IS SEEN...THOMAS WAS APPLYING HUMAN (USING THE SENSES) FAITH,...NOT FAITH BELIEVING....

LET US NOW REVEAL WHAT TRUE FAITH IS:....THAT FAITH WHICH IS SPIRITUAL.....

ROM 14:19-21 therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

IF THE ABOVE VERSES ARE TRUE AND WE KNOW THEY ARE, THEN FAITH IS NOT BEYOND OUR REACH NOR HIS PROMISES UNREALISTIC EVEN THOUGH REASONING WOULD CONTRADICT ANY FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WORD.....REALIZING THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM, WE FIND THAT OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD.

ROM 10:11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

HOW CLOSE IS FAITH?...

ROM 10:8-9 But what does it say? "The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

SO HOW DID FAITH COME TO YOU?.....BY CONFESSING?...BY BELIEVING?...IT CAME FIRST OF ALL AS WE READ.....

ROM 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

IF BELIEVING IS HARD TO GRASP, THE SOLUTION IS REPETITION VERBALLY, AND PROOF OF THIS IS FOUND IN.....

JESUS IS SPEAKING,

MAR 11:23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.

IN THIS PASSAGE, HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU FIND THE WORD "BELIEVE"?....(2).....HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU FIND "SAY"...(3).

WHY DOES THE WORD SAY "FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD"?...FAITH COMES BY HEARING....THE WORK IS HEARING, BELIEVING, AND SAYING. THAT IS THE ONLY WORK YOU DID....YOU OBEYED...YOU LISTENED.....YOU BELIEVED...YOU VOICED IT....

WHAT WORK DID ABRAHAM DO?...HE LOOKED AT HEAVEN AND BELIEVED...THE WORK IN THIS CASE WAS "BELIEF"...LOOK AT.....

GEN 15:5-6 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

WHAT WORK DID THE THIEF ON THE CROSS DO? HE BELIEVED.....HE NOT ONLY BELIEVED, BUT HE CONFESSED JESUS.

LUK 23:42,43 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

TO WORK MEANS NOT ONLY TO WORK WITH OUR HANDS AND FEET BUT ALSO WITH OUR MINDS... IN SCHOOL WE LISTEN TO LECTURES; WE LISTEN, OUR BODIES WORK AND OUR MINDS WORK. WHEN I PREPARE THESE LESSONS, MY MIND WORKS.

WHAT ELSE DOES THE WORD SAY? STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED. ISN'T THIS WORKING? WITH WHAT? YOUR HEAD! YOUR MIND!

NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR FAITH GROWING. THAT IS CONSTANT. BESIDES IT IS FAITH IN JESUS, NOT IN SELF. THE MORE WE APPLY OURSELVES TO THE WORD, OR RATHER APPLYING THE WORD TO OURSELVES, THE TRYING OF THE WORD, THE MORE EXPERIENCE WE OBTAIN. GREATER KNOWLEDGE, AND GREATER UNDERSTANDING, GIVING US GREATER WISDOM...IN THE WORD OF GOD!

TO BECOME PROFICIENT IN ANYTHING WE HAVE TO DO IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, BEFORE WE KNOW WE CAN DO IT. YOUR KNOWLEDGE WILL GROW BY BELIEVING THE WORD.

BUT YOU SAY, "I TRY TO BELIEVE, YET DOUBT SEEMS TO ENTER IN STRONGER THAN BELIEF." THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. WE ALL GO THROUGH THIS PHASE. WE ARE ALL **IN** NEGATIVE WORLD, BUT WE ARE NOT **OF IT**. SO IF WE ARE NOT **OF IT**, WHY DO WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN IT? IF WE WOULD SPEND AS MUCH ENERGY IN OUR BELIEF IN GOD AS WE DO OF THE WORLD, VICTORY WOULD BE OURS WITH VERY LITTLE EFFORT. LET US TRY ANOTHER WAY. IF FAITH COMES BY HEARING, THEN BELIEF AND CONFIDENCE WILL COME THE SAME WAY. ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS A WILLING MIND. WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO FOR THAT? ASK FOR IT. ASK FOR WHAT?

A WILLING MIND. WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY ABOUT THIS?

MAT 7:7-11 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

WHY DOES HE WANT TO GIVE US ALL THINGS? BECAUSE HE LOVES US. WHY DOES HE LOVE US? HE ONLY KNOWS. DO NOT TRY TO REASON IT

OUT. YOU CANNOT, FOR "IN ME, THAT IS IN MY FLESH, THERE IS NO GOOD THING."

OUR HUMAN REASONING CANNOT AGREE WITH OUR SPIRIT (THE NEW MAN), NOR WILL OUR SPIRIT BE SUBJECTED OR BE CONFORMED TO OUR REASONING. A BABE IN CHRIST WILL CONTINUE TO BE A BABE AS LONG AS HE AGREES WITH HIS REASONING. FURTHERMORE, RELYING ON OUR OWN STRENGTH, WE DEPEND ON SELF TO BE VICTORIOUS, AND THE MORE WE LEAN ON OUR OWN POWER OR FAITH IN SELF, THE MORE WE LOSE THE SIGHT OF GOD, AND FAITH IN HIM. WE BECOME MORE INDEBTED TO SELF AND HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN OUR OWN ABILITIES. THE MORE CONFIDENCE YOU PUT IN THE FLESH, THE MORE YOU WILL DEPEND ON IT.

YOU **HAVE** FAITH. WHAT YOU MAY HAVE IS **LACK OF KNOWLEDGE**. HOW MAY ONE OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE?

JOH 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO? READ THE WORD.

JER 23:18 For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?

HOW CAN THE HOLY SPIRIT BRING IT TO OUR REMEMBRANCE IF WE DO NOT READ THE WORD? OR HOW CAN HE TEACH US? WE, AS BELIEVERS, ARE NO LONGER DISTURBED OR FEARFUL OF DEATH. WHY? BECAUSE WE REST IN THE SALVATION MESSAGE, WHICH IS OF FAITH. A PROOF OF THIS:

HEB 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

AND

HEB 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

MUST I HAVE PERFECTION IN MY FLESH? THAT IS, MUST I BE PERFECT TO HAVE FAITH AT WORK IN MY LIFE? NO, I AM FREE. YOU ARE FREE. YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE OLD LAW, BUT UNDER THE NEW, WHICH IS THE LAW OF FAITH.

THE LAW OF BEING PERSUADED BY GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH IS OF PERSUASION, IS LIFE ETERNAL, AND THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS HERE AND NOW.

PRAY, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL PERSUADE YOU OF WHATEVER YOU DESIRE TO DO OR KNOW. PEACE BY PERSUASION IS FOR YOU.

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