

The Path - Basic Christian Doctrine

Day 10: Faith Toward God

In Hebrews 5:12 & 6:3 we find a list of six fundamental doctrines of Christ: the doctrines or teaching that Christ gave to His twelve -- so that they could give them to the world. "Faith toward God" is the second of the six doctrines. Today we will cover what Jesus and His apostles said about the necessity of having "faith toward God".

Jesus taught that everyone must have faith in God. He asked His disciples once when they were afraid because of a severe storm (Matthew 8:26):

"Why are ye fearful, oh ye of little _____." Faith can quell fear.

On another occasion He healed two blind men touching their eyes and saying (Matthew 9:29) "According to your faith, be it unto you." Jesus taught faith can heal.

Jesus taught that through faith evil spirits could be cast away from men's lives. When the disciples prayed and could not heal a child (whom his father called a lunatic) they brought the child to Jesus asking why they could not help the child. Jesus explained (Matthew 17:20):

"Because of your _____ : for verily I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say to this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

Jesus on many occasions explained that all things are possible through faith

The apostle John wrote in 1 John 5:4:

"... this is the victory that _____ the world, even our faith."

Faith is required to overcome the challenges to our Christian values that we will face in the world. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:16, when speaking about a Christian's armour needed to combat evil, adjures us to:

“Above all, take the _____ of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Faith is a shield against the fiery darts sent to destroy us. Faith destroys fear, doubt, anxiety, depressive thoughts, and the negativism of the world. When a Christian is able to say “I believe God” in the face of these negative thoughts and feelings, he will be able to overcome those feelings.

As we explained in the last lesson, the scriptures emphatically state that it is impossible to please God without faith. In Hebrews 11:6 we read:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him.”

We must have faith in everything that we do for God.

If faith is required to please God and overcome the world, how do we gain faith in our lives? One very important way to maintain faith was written by the Apostle Paul and is found in Romans 10:17:

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Faith comes by hearing God's Word. The more we hear it, the more we read it, the more we study it: the more that its truth and validity will be driven home to us and our faith will increase in the God of the Word of God.



Discussion:

- 1. What things did Jesus teach were possible through faith in God?**
- 2. What things did the apostles teach were possible through faith in God?**
- 3. Why must a Christian have faith to overcome the world?**
- 4. How does a Christian maintain and gain faith in their lives?**