

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#98)
Things associated with faith (#2).

1

FAITH!

- It's more than just salvation... more than just getting saved and going to heaven.
- It's about day-to-day life!

☞ **Things associated with FAITH.**

There are a number of things that are associated with faith – characteristics, actions, etc. – that are directly linked to faith, or at least somehow related to it.

When saving faith is present (= a living, fact-based faith), these types of things will tend to be present in varying degrees. In some cases, they must and will be present.

2

Trying to have FAITH without these other things is like trying to build a bridge without half of the support parts!

THE PYLON ON THE LEFT DOES A GOOD JOB OF HOLDING UP THE BRIDGE.

SO WE DON'T NEED THE PYLON ON THE RIGHT!

IT JUST DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!

3

Some of the things that are associated with faith...

LAST TIME, we looked at:

- Things at the time of salvation.
- Changes in thinking.

(CHANGES IN HOW WE LIVE.) → **TODAY:**

- The expression of FAITH in life.
- The "fruit of the Spirit" (Part 1).

NEXT TIME:

- The "fruit of the Spirit" (Part 2).
- The effects on others.
- Things that won't be present.

- ❖ Scripture may describe some characteristics as **BOTH** a fact that will occur, **AND** a command that must be obeyed.
- ❖ Some characteristics may be described as occurring with faith; others as a result of faith.
- ❖ Some may be mentioned with "faith" in a passage, without a stated relationship between them.

4

SAVING FAITH IS A LIVING FAITH. IT EXPRESSES ITSELF IN LIFE!

LIVING BY FAITH: This means NOW!

The righteous will live by faith. (Also: Gal. 3:11b; 1 Cor. 5:7.)
Romans 1:17b (CSB)

AS A FACT: But you know all about ... my faith, ...
2 Tim. 3:10a (GW)

☞ It was something others could observe and know about.

AS A COMMAND: Be an example to all believers in ... your faith...
1 Tim. 4:12b (NLT)

☞ He was to be an example that others could observe.

5

IT'S ASSOCIATED WITH WHAT GOD DOES.

HIS GRACE.

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1 Tim. 1:14 (NIV)

We have also obtained access through [our Lord Jesus Christ] by faith into this grace in which we stand, ...
Romans 5:2a (CSB)

HIS POWER.

[... that you may know] his incomparably great power for us who believe.
Ephes. 1:19a (NIV)

6

UNUSUAL DISPLAYS OF POWER (WHETHER PROVIDENTIAL OR MIRACULOUS).

We can include *anything* out of the ordinary that God uses to *point* people to the Good News, or to *reinforce* its message. The focus isn't on the amazing event, but on God and the Good News. (We examined this issue in the past. Some "acts of power" were one-time events; others occurred more often – whenever God willed.)

... does God give you the Holy Spirit and work *miracles* among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you *believe* the message you heard about Christ.

Galatians 3:5b (NLT15)

And the [church elder's] prayer of *faith* will save the one who is sick and the Lord will *raise him up* ...

James 5:15a (NET)

(See also: Mark 16:16-18, for signs that had the potential of occurring when people believed what the apostles told them.)

7

IT INFLUENCES ONE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE.

When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't the word of humans. Instead, *you accepted it for what it really is*—the word of God. This word is at work in you *believers*.

1 Thes. 2:13b (GW)

With *faith* and love for Christ Jesus, consider what you heard me say to be *the pattern of accurate teachings*.

2 Tim. 1:13 (GW)

(See also: Acts 13:48, honoring the word of the Lord; John 8:31-32, holding to Jesus' teachings.)

KNOWLEDGE – UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD.

A command: ... make every effort to add to your *faith* ... *knowledge*; ...

2 Peter 1:5 (NIV)

(See also: 2 Cor. 8:7, a statement of fact.)

8

IT INFLUENCES HOW A PERSON LIVES.**LIVING BY JESUS' TEACHINGS.**

To the Jews who had *believed* him, Jesus said, "If you *hold to my teaching*, you are really my disciples."

John 8:31 (NIV)

EAGERNESS, ZEAL, READY TO DO WHAT NEEDS DONE.

But as you excel in everything—in *faith*, ... in all *eagerness* ...

2 Co 8:7a (NET)

HAVING A PURPOSE IN LIFE (= SCRIPTURE-BASED, AS PAUL'S LIFE WAS).

But you know ... what *my purpose in life* is. You know my *faith* ...

2 Tim. 3:10a (NLT)

9

IT RESULTS IN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... WHICH INFLUENCES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE.**RIGHTEOUSNESS; A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

[Paul] told them about *faith* in Christ Jesus. As he reasoned with them about *righteousness* ...

Acts 24:24b-25a (NLT)

... a *righteousness* from God ... a *righteousness* that is by *faith* ... "The *righteous* will live by *faith*."

Romans 1:17b (NIV)

PURITY.

Be an example to all *believers* in ... your *faith*, and your *purity*.

1 Tim. 4:12b (NLT)

10

MORAL EXCELLENCE (INTEGRITY), GODLINESS, CARE FOR FELLOW BELIEVERS.

... make every effort to add to your *faith excellence*, ... *godliness*; ... *brotherly affection*; ...

2 Peter 1:5b, 6b, 7b (NET)

A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

... you must hold firmly to *faith* and a *good conscience*.

1 Timothy 1:19b (NET)

EXCELLENCE IN THE WORDS WE SAY.

... set an example for the *believers* in your *speech*, ...

1 Tim. 4:12b (NET)

... you excel ... in *faith*, ... in *speech* ...

2 Corinthians 8:7a (NET)

11

IT INFLUENCES OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FUTURE.**SOME OF THE THINGS WE LOOK FORWARD TO:**

An inheritance. [We want you] to imitate those who through *faith* and patience *inherit* what has been promised.

Hebrews 6:12b (NIV)

God's approval. ... your *faith* ... will bring *praise and glory and honor* when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:7b (NET)

HOPE – LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR FUTURE.

God empowers us to have this hope.

Now may the God of *hope* fill you with all joy and peace as you *believe* in him, so that you may abound in *hope* by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NET)

12

(MORE ABOUT THIS HOPE... ALONG WITH FAITH AND LOVE.)

Hope is part of the Good News truth; it "energizes" faith and love.

... the **faith** and love that spring from the **hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ...

Col. 1:5 (NIV)

Like faith and love, hope is part of the Christian's "armor."

We must put on **faith** and love as a breastplate and the **hope** of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thes. 5:8b (GW)

Though love is supreme, faith and hope do have lasting value.

Now these three remain: **faith**, **hope**, and love— but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (CSB)

13



THE CONNECTION OF SAVING FAITH TO THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23a (CSB)

⇒ **THE RESULT OF SAVING FAITH.** Characteristics like these will be present when the Spirit of God is present in a person's life. They are a **FACT** in a saved person's life.

⇒ **ASSOCIATED WITH SAVING FAITH.** At the same time, they are an **OBLIGATION** (sometimes given as a command), as well as something to be desired and pursued. Being saved, we will want to do these things. **Increasing** in these qualities is a part of **growing** in salvation.

14

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT HAS A DIRECT CONNECTION TO SAVING FAITH... WHICH MAKES SENSE, SINCE:

- Fact-based **FAITH** results in salvation.
- **SALVATION** results in the Spirit's presence.
- The **SPIRIT'S PRESENCE** results in the fruit of the Spirit.

FAITH/FAITHFULNESS – THE PREREQUISITE AND THE RESULT!

But the *fruit of the Spirit* is ... **faithfulness** ...

Galatians 5:22 (CSB)

Fact-based FAITH looks to something that is *faithful and trustworthy*.

Those who experience the changes of this fact-based FAITH end up becoming characterized as *faithful and trustworthy*!

[We will look further at this concept sometime in the future.]

15

FAITH and LOVE

THEY CANNOT BE SEPARATED IN LIFE!

The word "love" is often connected with *faith* – and for good reason. Just as faith without *works* is useless and dead (James 2:17, 20, 26), so also, faith without *love* results in nothing.

... and if I have a **faith** that can move mountains, but *have not love*, I am *nothing*.

1 Cor. 13:2b (NIV)

If the *faith* is genuine, the *love* will be there... as will the *works (obedience)*. That's because the *Spirit of God* is in saved people.

Now this is his command: that we **believe** in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and **love** one another as he commanded us. The one who **keeps his commands** remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from **the Spirit** he has given us.

1 John 3:23–24 (CSB)

16

FAITH AND LOVE IS WHAT MATTERS.

(Not religious activities – see the context.)

What is important is **faith** expressing itself in **love**.

Galatians 5:6b (NLT)

LOVE IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT... BUT ALSO A COMMAND TO BE OBEYED.

... make every effort to add to your **faith** ... **love**.

2 Peter 1:5b, 7b (NIV)

★ The New Testament word normally translated as "**love**," is a commitment-love that extends unconditionally to **all** people, saved and unsaved – and also to God. ★

Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." ... 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Matthew 22:37, 39b (NLT)

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SCRIPTURE SAYS SO MUCH ABOUT FAITH AND LOVE TOGETHER!

- Love doesn't "lose faith"; it keeps on trusting – 1 Corinthians 13:7. (Being **fact**-based faith, it won't be gullible. It won't trust things that are contrary to fact.)
- Faith and love are in Christ Jesus – 1 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:13.
- Love with faith is from God / Jesus Christ – Ephesians 6:23.

(IT ALSO MENTIONS FAITH, LOVE AND HOPE TOGETHER.)

- Faith and love and hope have lasting value; but the one with greatest value is love – 1 Corinthians 13:13.
- Armor of God: Faith and love are like a breastplate; the hope of salvation is like a helmet – 1 Thessalonians 5:8.

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EXAMPLES OF FAITH AND LOVE TOGETHER.

- Paul wrote to people who had faith in Jesus Christ, and love for God's people – Ephesians 1:15; Colossians 1:4 Philemon 1:5.

This love for God's people is significant. After all, if we don't love them, we have no reason to claim we love God! (1 John 3:10, 17; 4:20)

- Paul was told about the Thessalonians' faith and love – 1 Thessalonians 3:6.
- Being an example for others: in love and faith (as well as other character qualities) – 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:10.
- Excelling in faith, love and many other qualities – 1 Corinthians 8:7.
- Greeting those who "love us in the faith" – Titus 3:15.

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FAITH and JOY/REJOICING

JOY BECAUSE OF FAITH/TRUST IN GOD.

[The jailer] and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Acts 16:34b (NLT)

This joy (resulting from trust) is from God.

May God... fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him.

Romans 15:13a (GW)

Spiritual growth increases the joy that comes from faith.

... I will continue with you so that you will grow and experience the joy of your faith.

Philip. 1:25b (NLT)

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FAITH and PEACE

The Bible's "peace" has to do with harmony and right relationships, completeness, well-being, etc.

IT'S FROM GOD... ASSOCIATED WITH FAITH, AND THE RESULT OF OUR FAITH!

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 (CSB)

This peace (resulting from trust) is from God/Jesus.

May God... fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him.

Romans 15:13a (GW)

Peace ... and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:23 (CSB)

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NEXT TIME: We plan to finish looking at things associated with FAITH.

TODAY: We've already seen enough to leave us with a mission.

YOUR MISSION: STAND!

There are so many wonderful things associated with FAITH!
Don't throw away your opportunity to STAND, when those without faith experience loss.

[Others lost the opportunity] because of unbelief, but you stand by faith.

Romans 11:20b (CSB)

ALL of these things are made possible because of our TRUST in God.

★ *That makes all the difference!* ★

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