

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#99)
Things associated with faith (#3).

1

There are so many wonderful things associated with a living, fact-based FAITH!

The FAITH described in the Bible is so much greater than the fake faith that many churches offer.

—

WE ALREADY LOOKED AT:

- Things at the time of salvation.
- Changes in thinking.
- The expression of FAITH in *life*.
- The "fruit of the Spirit" (Part 1).

→ **TODAY:**

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

2

THE CONNECTION OF SAVING FAITH TO THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. [PART 2]

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

Galatians 5:22-23a (CSB)

⇒ **ALL OF THESE ARE RELATED TO SAVING FAITH.** This *faith* results in *salvation*, which results in the Holy Spirit's *presence*, which results in the *fruit* of the Spirit's presence.

⇒ **SOME OF THESE ARE FOUND IN VERSES THAT MAKE A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO FAITH.** This further reinforces our awareness that such characteristics are associated with faith.

These may be either statements of fact or commands. They may describe what God does, what we are to do, cause-effect relationships, or simply show that they go together.

3

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

Galatians 5:22-23a (CSB)

[LAST TIME]

LOVE: ⇒ We looked at many verses that associate love with faith.

JOY, PEACE ⇒ We saw a few verses that connected these with faith.

FAITHFULNESS ⇒ We glanced at this concept. It is part of the word group that includes "faith"; and we will look at it another time.

SELF-CONTROL, PATIENCE ⇒ We will look at these today.

KINDNESS, GOODNESS, GENTLENESS ⇒ Scripture says a lot about these, but not in passages that connect them directly to the word "faith."

4

PART 2, CONTINUING WITH:

FAITH and SELF-CONTROL

THE CHRISTIAN'S "ARMOR" MAKES SELF-CONTROL POSSIBLE.

Faith is part of the Christian's "armor."

But since we belong to the day, let us be *self-controlled*, putting on *faith* and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thes. 5:8 (NIV)

SELF-CONTROL MUST BE "ADDED" TO ONE'S FAITH.

... make every effort to add to your *faith* ... *self-control*...

2 Peter 1:5b, 6b (NIV)

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FAITH and PATIENCE

This word has to do with our attitude toward *people* who cause us harm. We choose to not retaliate or "get even" when they wrong us.

BEING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

But you know all about ... my *faith*, my *patience*, ...

2 Tim. 3:10a (GW)

THOSE WHO HAVE PATIENCE WITH SUCH PEOPLE WILL INHERIT WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED THEM.

(This was written to Christians who were being persecuted because they followed Jesus.)

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

Hebrews 6:12b (NIV)

6

★ Here is a related concept: ★

FAITH and ENDURANCE/PERSEVERANCE

This word is NOT found in the "fruit of the Spirit" passage; but in many respects, it goes along with "patience."

PATIENCE vs. ENDURANCE/PERSEVERANCE

- **PATIENCE** focuses on our response to hurtful **PEOPLE**:
 - ⇒ We choose to not retaliate or get revenge for the wrongs they commit against us.
- **ENDURANCE (or PERSEVERANCE)** focuses on our response to hurtful **CIRCUMSTANCES or TRIALS** (sometimes caused by people):
 - ⇒ We choose to not give up or surrender to despair.

There is probably some overlap between these concepts, with endurance/perseverance being the more comprehensive.

7

WE NEED ENDURANCE DURING TRIALS.

["End time" verses teach us principles that apply to "any time" situations.]

Trials will occur...

"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go.

If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed."

This calls for *patient endurance* and *faithfulness* on the part of God's people.

Revelation 13:10 (NIV11)

... but they will not last forever.

This calls for *patient endurance* on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain *faithful* to Jesus.

Revelation 14:12 (NIV11); see v. 9-13.

See Rev. 14:9-13. Those who follow the world's ways will have eternal "trials" to endure. *But not God's people!*

8

GOD USES TRIALS TO GROW OUR ENDURANCE.

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your **faith** is tested, your **endurance** has a chance to grow.

So let it grow, for when your **endurance** is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

WE MUST ADD ENDURANCE/PERSEVERANCE TO OUR FAITH.

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

2 Peter 1:5b, 6b (NIV)

These two passages show us that, as always, God's sovereignty (= what God does) and human responsibility (= what we are to do) *work together*.

9

BEING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

But you know all about ... my **faith** ... and my **endurance**.

2 Tim. 3:10a (GW)

Therefore, we ourselves boast about you among God's churches—about your **perseverance** and **faith** in all the persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 (CSB)

The rest of the passage describes what will happen when Jesus returns to judge the world.

We need to remember these two characteristics – *patience* and *endurance* – as we consider the reaction of the world to our faith in Jesus Christ. (⇒ To be described below.)

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SAVING FAITH AND OUR INTERACTION WITH OTHERS.



"Others" includes both saved and unsaved people... and the devil (and his forces).

INTERACTING WITH SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL.

Keep your **mind clear**, and be **alert**. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour.

Be firm in the **faith** and **resist** him, knowing that other believers throughout the world are going through the same kind of suffering.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (GW)

All of God's people have to deal with this issue... and we won't be able to do it if we have unclear, "foggy" thinking. (The context of these verses focuses on God's care and protection.)

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INTERACTING WITH GOD'S PEOPLE – OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL'S INTERACTION WITH OTHERS: ENCOURAGEMENT (both ways) AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

... that you and I may be mutually **encouraged** by each other's **faith**.

Romans 1:12b (NIV)

His goal: To build up others as long as he was alive.

[Convinced that God is going to spare him from death...] I will continue with all of you for **your progress and joy** in the **faith**, ...

Philip. 1:25b (NIV)

His encouragement: From seeing the spiritual growth of others.

But Timothy ... has told us the good news about your **faith** and love. ... your **faith** has **encouraged** us in all our distress and trouble.

1 Thes. 3:6a,7 (GW)

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INTERACTING WITH THE WORLD.



Here is where those passages about *patience* and *endurance* are most needed!



SUFFERING GOES ALONG WITH FOLLOWING JESUS.

Attitude is important!

For you have been given not only the privilege of *trusting* in Christ but also the privilege of *suffering* for him.

Philip. 1:29 (NLT)

A willingness to be "sacrificed" for the good of others.

But even if I am *poured out as a drink offering* on the sacrificial service of your *faith*, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

Philip. 2:17-18 (CSB)

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GOD IS ACCOMPLISHING GOOD THROUGH IT.

Our faith needs refined – proved genuine.

In this [coming salvation] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to *suffer grief in all kinds of trials*.

These have come so that your *faith*--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

Becoming an encouragement for others, as our faith and love grow.

... your *faith* is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and *faith* in all the *persecutions and trials* you are enduring.

2 Thes. 1:3b-4 (NIV)

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LEARNING FROM THE EXAMPLES OF OTHERS.

Paul's suffering... and God's deliverance.

But you know all about ... my *faith*, my *patience*, my *love*, and my *endurance*. You also know about the kind of *persecutions and sufferings* which happened to me in the cities of Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I endured those *persecutions*, and the Lord rescued me from all of them.

2 Tim. 3:10-11 (GW)

Suffering at the church of Pergamum ... deliverance sometimes comes through death.

I know where you live—where Satan's throne is. Yet you are holding on to my name and did not deny your *faith* in me, even in the days of Antipas, my *faithful* witness who was *put to death* among you, where Satan lives.

Revelation 2:13 (CSB)

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THINGS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH SAVING FAITH.



DOUBT AND UNBELIEF.

[The New Testament uses a variety words to express these attitudes.]

NOT BELIEVING THE TRUTH.

[Jesus to Thomas] ... "*Don't be faithless* any longer [about the resurrection]. *Believe!*"

John 20:27b (NLT)

THESE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE!

QUESTIONING GOD'S ABILITY TO DO SOMETHING.

But let him ask [for wisdom] in *faith without doubting*. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord, being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.

James 1:6-8 (CSB)

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THESE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE!

NOT ACCEPTING AND LIVING BY THE TRUTH.

(From the parable of the sower.)

[*Not believing.*] Some people are like seeds that were planted along the road. They hear the word, but then the devil comes. He *takes the word away* from them so that they don't *believe* and become saved.

[*Temporary faith.*] Some people are like seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the word with joy whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. They *believe* for a while, but when their *faith* is tested, they *abandon* it.

[*Might believe something, but preoccupied with the world.*] The seeds that were planted among thornbushes are people who hear the word, but as life goes on the worries, riches, and pleasures of life *choke* them. So they don't produce anything good.

[*Genuine living faith.*] The seeds that were planted on good ground are people who also hear the word. But they keep it in their good and honest hearts and produce what is *good* despite what life may bring.

Luke 8:12-15 (GW)

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THESE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE!

BOASTING ABOUT ATTAINING SALVATION BY ONE'S WORKS.

Where, then, is *boasting*? It is excluded! By what principle? Of works? No, but by the principle of *faith!*

Romans 3:27 (NET)

Salvation is available because of what *God* did... not because of what *we* did! Our duty is to trust God and his accomplishment.

There *are* some legitimate forms of boasting... but not the type we are normally inclined to have. Examples: 2 Thes. 1:3b-4 (encouraging others with godly examples) and 1 Corinthians 1:31 (boasting in the Lord).

HAVING FAVORITISM.

My brothers, as *believers* in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show *favoritism*.

James 2:1 (NIV)

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THESE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE!

SHRINKING BACK FROM TRIALS AND PERSECUTION.

But we are not among those who *shrink back and thus perish*, but are among those who have **faith** and preserve their souls.
Hebrews 10:39 (NET)

This refers specifically to a living, fact-based faith.

SHAME AT JESUS' COMING.

This is the end result of a life characterized by things that are incompatible with saving faith.

Scripture says, "Whoever **believes** in him will not be **ashamed**."
Romans 10:11 (GW)

(See also Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:6.)

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SO NOW WE ASK:

WHY?


WHY have we mentioned so many things associated with FAITH (and also a few *not* associated with it)?

- 1. NOT:** So that we would memorize all the verses!
(Although that wouldn't be a bad thing.)
- 2. RATHER:** So that we could get a better understanding of what a **living, fact-based** FAITH is all about... **as it is being lived!**
(It shows us the types of things that are compatible with it.)
- 3. ALSO:** To show how **opposed** to it the "opposites" actually are.
(It's like two different worlds!)

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It's like two different worlds!

THE WORLD OF "FAITH"
(LIVING AND FACT-BASED)



ALL THE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

THE WORLD OF "UNFAITH"
(INCLUDES **FAKE** "FAITH")



ALL THE THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

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Your mission... → **SELF evaluation**

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?
2 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

IS YOUR LIFE CHARACTERIZED BY THINGS ASSOCIATED WITH "FAITH" OR "UNFAITH"?

If your thoughts, values and actions fit in the **wrong** category, and if you refuse to change, you know the final outcome.
But you aren't there yet!

Instead of debating whether or not you are saved, make those changes (since God offers you the power to do so).
Then there won't be any reason to question your salvation!

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YOUR MISSION:
Evaluate your life!

<< **IT'S LIKE 2 DIFFERENT WORLDS... WHICH ONE DO YOU BELONG TO?** >>

God doesn't require us to **attain** perfection, in order to be saved. But we need to **grow** in that direction!

Focus on adding to your life those characteristics that are compatible with FAITH... and God will take care of the rest!

For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.
2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)

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Credits

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