



Building Your Faith – Part IV ***The Elements of Faith***

September 16, 2007

Sermon Notes

Why is Faith Important?

Hebrews 11:6 (New Living Translation)

So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (New Living Translation)

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

Do I Have Faith?

Romans 12:3 (New International Version)

3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Love is the Foundation of Faith!

Galatians 5:6 (New King James Version)

6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, **but faith working through love.**

1 John 4:8 (New King James Version)

8 He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (The Message)

3-7If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Your Man of God – It Does Matter What Church You Go To!

2 Chronicles 20:20b (New International Version)

Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.

Romans 10:14-15 (New International Version)

14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Belief – Whoever You Trust Controls Your Future

Mark 9:22-23 (New King James Version)

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

Mark 11:24 (New International Version)

24Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Obedience – Obedience is the Only Thing God Has Required of Man

James 1:23-25 (Amplified Bible)

23For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror; 24For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like. 25But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience).

Governing Values – Write down three things that you value.

Peace – Peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the absence of inner conflict.

Isaiah 26:3 (New Living Translation)

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Ephesians 2:14a (New International Version)

14For he himself is our peace,

1 Peter 3:11 (New Living Translation)

Turn away from evil and do good. Work hard at living in peace with others.

Philippians 4:6-7 (New Living Translation)

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

James 3:18 (New Living Translation)

18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

The Meaning of Peace

In English, the word "peace" conjures up a passive picture, one showing an absence of civil disturbance or hostilities, or a personality free from internal and external strife. The biblical concept of peace is larger than that and rests heavily on the Hebrew root *slm*, which means "to be complete" or "to be sound." The verb conveys both a dynamic and a static meaning? "to be complete or whole" or "to live well." The noun had many nuances, but can be grouped into four categories: (1) *salom* [l'v] **as wholeness of life or body (i.e., health)**; (2) *salom* [l'v] **as right relationship or harmony between two parties or people**, often established by a covenant (see "covenant of peace" in Num 25:12-13; Isa 54:10; Ezek 34:25-26) and, when related to Yahweh, the covenant was renewed or maintained with a "peace offering"; (3) *salom* [l'v] **as prosperity, success, or fulfillment** (see Lev 26:3-9); and (4) *salom* [l'v] **as victory over one's enemies or absence of war**.

Joy – Joy is the benefit reserved for the obedient

Nehemiah 8:10 (Amplified Bible)

And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

James 1:2 (New Living Translation)

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

Mouth – Whatever Goes in You Comes Out of You

Romans 10:8 (New International Version)

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

Proverbs 18:21 (Contemporary English Version)

21 Words can bring death or life! Talk too much, and you will eat everything you say.

Hearing – Hearing the Right Things Could Potentially Get you the Right Things

Romans 10:17 (New King James Version)

17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.