

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Hebrews 13:6; Revelation 1:17.**
- B. Fear, anxiety, grief and gloom are the results of doubt, disbelief and distrust. However, faith will dispel these heart disturbers (Jn. 14:1; Psa. 5:11-12).
- C. The absence of faith and the presence of doubt, disbelief and distrust results in a very sad and tragic situation. When faith in God goes:
  - 1. Man, the thinker, loses his great thought.
  - 2. Man, the worker, loses his greatest motive.
  - 3. Man, the sinner, loses his greatest help.
  - 4. Man, the sufferer, loses his securest refuge.
  - 5. Man, the mortal, loses his only hope.
- D. Faith is so essential to living (Psa. 27:13; Gal. 2:20).  
(Psa 27:13) *I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.*  
(Gal 2:20) *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."*
  - 1. We stand by faith (2Cor. 1:24).
  - 2. We walk by faith (2Cor. 5:7).
  - 3. We endure by faith (Heb. 11:27).
  - 4. We subdue by faith (Heb. 11:33).
  - 5. We fight by faith (1Tim. 6:12).
  - 6. We overcome and win our victories by faith (1Jn. 5:4; Heb. 11).
  - 7. Our accomplishments will be in proportion to our faith (Mt. 9:29).In contrast, call to mind that when Peter doubted, Peter sank (Mt. 14:31). Yet, we are living in a day when people think it is intellectual to doubt.
- E. Every person should formulate a set of personal convictions--the Bible being the basis of such--for which he would gladly surrender his life. "A faith to live by" is so important because "faith makes the up-look good, the outlook bright, the in-look favorable and the future glorious."

## I. **INSTEAD OF DOUBT, LET US HAVE FAITH "IN OTHERS."**

- A. Christ had faith in others.  
He took eleven, faulty, unlearned, self-seeking men, who failed Him in His supreme need, and entrusted them with the responsibility of remaking the world (Mt. 28:18-20). What faith in man!
- B. Barnabas had great faith in man.  
When the disciples were afraid of Paul; Barnabas, having faith in him, vouched for him (Ac. 9:26-28). Then, when Paul desired not to take John Mark with them on the second missionary tour, John Mark having returned on the first journey, Barnabas had faith in him and contended that he should go with them (see Ac. 15:36-41).
- C. Love will result in our believing in others.  
Love "thinks no evil." Too, love "**believeth all things**" (1Cor. 13:5, 7). Believing in others, love always puts the best construction possible upon the deeds and behavior of others.

## II. **INSTEAD OF DOUBT, LET US HAVE FAITH "IN OURSELVES."**

- A. We are forbidden to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Rom. 12:3); however, we ought to have confidence in the abilities and talents which God has given to us!
- B. Paul (Phil. 4:13), Nehemiah (Neh. 2:17-19), and Joshua and Caleb (Num. 14:6-10) all believed in themselves. Success comes in "cans" not in "cants." He can who believes he can. Let us

forevermore get rid of these feelings of inferiority.

(Phil 4:13) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

(Neh 2:17-19) Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates burned by fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem that we may no longer be a reproach." **18** And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me, and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us arise and build." So they put their hands to the good *work*.

### III. IN PLACE OF DOUBT, LET US HAVE FAITH "IN GOD."

#### A. Let us have faith and trust in the PERSON of God.

Texts: Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:6; Psalms 14:1; Mark 11:22; 2Chr. 20:20.

(Gen 1:1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(2Chr 20:20) And they rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God, and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

(Psa 14:1) The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

(Mk 11:22) And Jesus answered<sup>^</sup> saying to them, "Have faith in God.

(Heb 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

I believe in the person of God because:

1. The Bible affirms such and there is ample proof that the Bible is right.
2. There is no other reasonable way to account for the universe.
3. Otherwise I become a god myself. When one says there is no God, he himself must be omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent.
4. It is infinitely safer to believe in God than to believe otherwise.

#### B. Let us have faith and trust in the POWER of God.

1. Our God is powerful (Gen. 17:1; 18:14; Mt. 19:26; Lk. 1:37).

(Gen 17:1) Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless."

(Gen 18:14) "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

(Mt 19:26) And looking upon *them* Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

(Lk 1:37) "For nothing will be impossible with God."

2. What about God's power as evidenced in creation, in which he spoke the world and all things therein into existence? What about the power of God in the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, in the destruction of the walls of Jericho, in the preservation of Daniel, and in the healing of Naaman. Indeed, our God is Almighty!
3. The Bible says that our God is able:
  - a. To save us to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25).
  - b. To keep us saved (2Tim. 1:12).
  - c. To change our vile bodies at the coming of His Son (Phil. 3:19-21).
  - d. To do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or think (Eph. 3:20).

#### C. Let us have faith and trust in the PROVIDENCE of God.

1. Though the age of miracles is over, the age of providence is not. Miracles were performed without the use of natural means, over and above God's prescribed natural laws. Whereas providence is God working through, and in keeping with, his prescribed laws.
2. That God works providentially in the lives of men can be graphically seen in a study of the lives of Joseph and Esther.
3. God's promise that all things will work together for good to those who love him, necessitates His providence (Rom. 8:28). In order to accept and appreciate God's providence we must come to believe that God blesses His people in this present world (Lk. 6:38; Mk. 10:28-30; Mt. 6:33). We must come to realistically trust in the fact that God makes us His care (1Pet. 5:7, Lk. 12:7).

(Rom 8:28) And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

(1Pet 5:7) ...casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

D. Let us have faith and trust in the PRESENCE of God.

1. That God is omnipresent is repetitiously asserted throughout his word (Psa. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24; Ac. 17:24-28).

(Psa 139:7-12) Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. **9** If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, **10** Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," **12** Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to *Thee*.

(Jer 23:23-24) "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off? **24** "Can a man hide himself in hiding places, So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

(Ac 17:24-28) "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; **25** neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; **26** and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, **27** that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'

2. God is above us (Eph. 4:6), around us (Psa. 125:2), before us (Ex. 13:21), behind us (Isa. 30:21), beneath us (Deut. 33:27), with us (Isa. 41:10-13), and in us (Col. 1:27).
3. A realization of God's presence will:
  - a. Make us live better.
  - b. Keep us from secret sin (Psa. 19:12; Eccl. 12:14).
  - c. Sustain us in trial (Psa. 46).
  - d. Strengthen us in temptation (1Cor. 10:13).
  - e. Fortify us in persecution (2Tim. 4:17).
  - f. Comfort us in dying (Ac. 7:54-60).
  - g. Encourage us in praying (1Pet. 3:12).
  - h. Thrill and motivate us in doing good, though no one knows about it (Mt. 6:1-6).
  - i. Inspire us to work for Jesus (Mt. 28:18-20).

E. Let us have faith and trust in the PROMISES of God.

1. Abraham had faith in the promises of God (Rom. 4:20-22).  
...yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, **21** and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform. **22** Therefore also IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
2. Moses had faith in the promises of God (Heb. 11:26).  
considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
3. God is not slack concerning His promises (2Pet. 3:9).  
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
4. His promises are exceedingly great and precious (2Pet. 1:4).  
For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

F. Let us have faith and trust in the PRECEPTS of God (2Th. 2:13).

1. Like Paul, let us come to say, "Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God, that it will turn out exactly as I have been told." (Ac. 27:25).
2. One man expressed it this way, "Brethren, whatever the good Lord tells me to do in this blessed book; that I'm going to do. If I see in it that I must jump through a stone wall, I'm going to jump at it. Going through it belongs to God, jumping at it belongs to me."

3. May our faith never waver; rather, may we ever believe that God means what He says and says what He means. His word can be trusted! Thus believing, we will trust His promises, heed his warnings and obey his commands.
- G. True faith in God and in His Son, involves:
  1. The *assent* that God is and that Jesus Christ is His Son.
  2. A realistic *trust* in them as Father and Savior.
  3. A genuine *obedience* to Their divine will (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; Heb. 11:8, 28, 30).

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Remembering that the unbelieving shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8), let us sincerely pray, "Help my unbelief" (Mk. 9:24), and "Increase our faith" (Lk. 17:5).
- B. Turn your doubts into faith by responding to JC.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.