

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 10:12-17**.
- B. This is the first in a series of sermons on the plan of salvation.
- C. Our scripture text says that one needs to hear the message preached. Without faith it is impossible to please 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.
- D. Today's lesson covers:
 - 1. A definition of faith.
 - 2. Types of faith.
 - 3. Getting a faith of your own.
 - 4. The great blessings of faith.

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. The definition of faith is in Heb. 11:1.
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - 1. **The assurance of things hoped for** (things of the future).
 - 2. **The conviction of things not seen** (things of the past).
- B. Faith is used in two distinct ways in the Scriptures:
 - 1. **The personal conviction of the heart** (Rom. 4:3,19-22; 10:17; Eph. 4:5).
*(Rom. 4:3) For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."
(Rom. 4:19-22) Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 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 God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
(Rom 10:17) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
(Eph 4:5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism,*
 - 2. **The system of doctrine to follow** (Ac. 6:7; Jude 3).
*(Ac 6:7) The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.
(Jude 3) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.*
- C. Both need to be right to have a faith that is acceptable to God. It must come from the heart, and be in tune with the teachings of the Spirit (Gal. 3:26).
For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

II. TYPES OF FAITH.

- A. Our faith is not always as it should be. Notice the different types or stages of faith:
 - 1. **Weak in faith.**
Our earthly hope against the heavenly hope (Rom. 4:19,20).
Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,
 - 2. **Little in faith.**
Our doubt keeps us as men of little faith (Mt. 6:30).
But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

3. **Dead in faith.**

Faith without works is dead (Jas. 2:17).

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

4. **Great in faith.**

Tremendous trust in spite of the odds (Mt. 8:5-10).

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, **6** and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." **7** Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." **8** But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9** For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*." **10** Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

B. Our faith must always in be X (Jn. 8:24; Ac. 4:12).

(Jn 8:24) Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

(Ac 4:12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

III. OBTAINING A FAITH OF YOUR OWN.

A. Faith DOES NOT COME by **subjective experience**.

No one can call on someone or something they have not heard of. Instead of waiting for some experience to happen, hear the Word and believe (Rom. 10:14-17; Eph. 1:13,14)!

(Rom 10:14-17) How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? **15** How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!" **16** However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" **17** So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. **(Eph 1:13,14)** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

B. Faith DOES COME by **hearing the word of God**.

We need to be instructed on what to believe; otherwise, no two people will believe the same thing (Rom. 10:8,17; Ac. 15:7; Jn. 20:31; 2Th. 1:10).

(Rom 10:8,17) But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching.... **17** So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

(Ac 15:7) After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

(Jn 20:31) but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

(2Th 1:10) when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

IV. THE GREAT BLESSINGS OF FAITH.

A. Some of the great blessings of having faith are:

1. **Salvation.**

However, the faith that saves is not alone (Eph. 2:8).

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

2. **Justification.**

The spiritual condition is just-as-if-I'd never sinned (Rom. 5:1).

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

3. **Sanctification.**

Made holy and set apart for a purpose (Ac. 26:18).

to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

B. A Xian’s everyday conduct is to be on the basis of faith (2Cor. 5:7).

for we walk by faith, not by sight--

C. Faith means not trusting in the flesh (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 gave Himself up for me.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Having faith is the first step in becoming a Xian. Everyone who wants to be pleasing to God must come to Him in faith. Hebrews 11 lists the great men and women of God and the works produced by faith.

B. We have discussed:

1. The definition of faith as found in Hebrews 11:1.

Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2. Different types of faith--hopefully striving for a great faith.

3. How faith comes by hearing the word of God.

4. Some of the great blessings to those who have faith.

C. Our faith in God and His work in X should lead us to obedience (Jas. 2:17-20; 1Pet. 1:22; Rom. 6:17).

(Jas 2:17-20) Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. **18** But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” **19** You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. **20** But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

(1Pet 1:22) Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

(Rom 6:17) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.