

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

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Scripture: Mark 11:22

These words of Jesus are vital to every person. Each heart is filled with darkness until it comes to know the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Bible we are constantly called to have faith in God. This summons is given through lives transformed and empowered by God.

The life of Abraham stands out as a great example of faith. He was called from his land to go into a country he did not know. He was tested by adversity and delay; yet through faith in God his life was filled with victory and blessing.

His life can be summarized in these words, "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but waxed strong in faith giving glory to God."

The scriptures say that Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

The lives of Moses, Joshua, David, and a host of others in scripture shine out as testimonies to the transforming power of faith in God.

In the words of the prophets we find repeated calls to have faith in God.

Isaiah said, "Let the wicked forsake his way and unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him." Jeremiah spoke the words of the Lord saying, "Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth."

Ezekiel said, "Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways, for why will ye die?"

Amos said, "Prepare to meet thy God, O, Israel."

FAITH THROUGH JESUS

Jesus repeatedly called upon people to have faith in God.

In the beginning of the Galilean ministry he preached, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye and believe in the gospel."

To the frightened disciples in the storm on the lake, Jesus said, "Where is your faith?"

To the repentant, sinful woman anoint-

ing Jesus' feet, the Saviour said, "Thy faith has saved thee, go in peace."

To the father and mother whose little twelve-year-old daughter lay dead, Jesus said, "Do not fear, only believe."

To the father whose son was possessed with a demon, the Saviour said, "All things are possible to him that believeth."

To Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus said, "Said I not unto thee, if thou wouldst believe, thou wouldst see the glory of God?"

It is vital to remember that we have faith in God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ is God's provision for our sin. The redemptive heart of God yearned to draw sinful man back unto himself. The only solution to the problem of man's sin was the Cross of Christ. God's own Son who was perfectly obedient to the will of His Father took our sins in his body on the Cross and died that we might live. As God looks upon the atonement made for our sins by his only begotten Son, it is possible for him to extend the mercy to sinful man he longs to bestow.

This bestowal of God's mercy with the forgiveness of our sins is upon the condition of our personal trust in Jesus Christ who died and arose from the dead that we might live.

The scriptures make clear what Christ means to us. He is described as being the Lamb of God. He is the Light of the World. He is the Bread of Life. He is the Good Shepherd. He is the way, the Truth, and the Life. He is our Saviour, Lord, Master, King, and will be our Judge.

THE ONLY WAY

He is the only way to God. Jesus said clearly, "All things have been delivered unto me of my Father, and no one knows the Son save the Father. Neither doth any know the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal him."

Jesus said again, "He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father that sent him."

Simon Peter stated, "And in none other is there salvation, for there is no other name unto heaven that is given among men whereby we may be saved."

Through faith we can see the glory of God. We experience His work of Grace within our own souls. Our sins are forgiven. We experience freedom in Christ from the bondage of sin. We have new life in Christ. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new. We are born again. Because He lives, we live.

Through faith we see God's glory in His mighty works within the world. Jesus said, "He that believeth on me as the scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water."

A life transformed by the Grace of God becomes an overflowing life. It is able to bring blessing in a needy world. Through the product of a transformed life we see the glory of God.

Through faith in Christ we will someday see our Lord's eternal glory. We shall see him and we shall be like him. We shall join with others in songs of praises to the Lamb who is worthy because He was slain for our sins.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

The most important issue of any man's life is that of trusting Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. There is no substitute

for personal faith in Christ. A life of decency and morality, while commendable from many angles, is no substitute for faith in Christ.

The only righteousness that is acceptable in the sight of God is that which comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

The fact is that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It is also a fact that by the deeds of the law no flesh can be justified in God's sight. The scriptures clearly state, "But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God hath been manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all them that believe; for there is no distinction." (Rom. 3:21-22)

Let no man think he can stand in the presence of God without faith in Christ. We are told in the scripture, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God."

Humanity is sharply divided between two classes of people—those who have placed their personal trust in Jesus Christ for salvation from sin and those who have not. If you have not trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and committed your life unto him to follow and serve him as your Lord, now is the time to take that most important step.

The words of our Lord ring out in our hearts, "Have faith in God."

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