

Faith Training

S. Coley

One day Richard went into a room where his little girl was, bright-eyed and happy as she could be. Somebody had just given her a box of very beautiful wooden beads. The little child ran to her papa immediately to show her gift. "They are very beautiful, my child," he said, "but now, my dear, throw them into the fire."



The little girl looked for a moment. It was a great trial. "Now I shall not compel you to do it. I leave it to you, but you never knew papa to ask you to do a thing that was not kind to you. I cannot tell you why, but can you trust me to do so?"

It cost a great effort; but the little child began in her own way to think, "Father has always been kind to me. I suppose it is alright," and she took the box, and threw it into the fire.

The father said no more for some time. The next day, howev-

er, he presented her with something far more beautiful, and which she had long desired. "Now," said he, "my child, I did this to teach you to trust in the greater Father in heaven. Many a time in your life, He will require you to give up and to avoid what you cannot see or understand. If you just trust your Father in heaven as you have trusted me, you will always find it best."

Clear Faith

John Bates

Astronomers and naturalists need to be particularly careful in having their lenses free from all dust in viewing objects. The smallest speck of dust might affect what they are seeing and their judgment. So, also, should Christians be careful to have their faith wiped clean of all the dust of doubts and unbelief, lest they should behold the truths of God imperfectly and come to a perverted judgment.





"On the whole, more people are cheated by believing nothing than by believing too much." — Barnum

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Real Faith Is Evident

Bill Brinkworth

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ... 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ... 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 2:14-26



everlasting torment, turned out not to be "real" faith.

Just believing in God is not saving, or trusting faith! Even the devils believe in God (vs.19). They even tremble at the mention of Him, yet their "faith" will not save them any more than that kind of faith will save anyone.

Satan has even talked to God (Job 1:6-7); yet his knowing the Creator is not going to get him into heaven. Knowledge is not necessarily faith. I can believe that there is a president in the Whitehouse, but that faith does not make me a member of his family or even part of his cabinet. Real Christian faith is more than knowing about spiritual things.

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The one thing that has kept many out of heaven, especially professing but not possessing Christians, is discussed in James 2:14-26. Sadly, those people may have thought they had done what was necessary to obtain heaven, but found out they were mistaken. The "faith" that they thought would bar them from an

"Part-time faith, like part-time jobs, can't support you."

“Faith is an inside job, that works its way out.”

Real Faith Is Evident

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The one ingredient that makes faith real is that one trusts one's belief in a physical way. That trust is exhibited by oneself, and often observed by others around him, by one's works. One believes that Jesus died on the cross for his sins, and by faith trusts that sacrifice as payment for his sins. One believes by faith that Jesus will hear his prayers, so he talks to Him every day. A believer believes the Bible is God's Word, so he tries to follow every commandment its pages reveal. The saved person, by faith, believes that God will meet his every need. The believer patiently waits for Him to meet his needs, rather than impatiently racking up credit card debt because God did not provide in the time expected. One tithes because God commands it, and the child of God knows God will somehow help him live on less. These steps out into uncertain situations may seem foolish to one not living by real faith, but to the faithful these steps are works proving that their faith is real.

Faith without these “works” (proofs) is not real faith. Three times (vss. 17, 20, 26) faith without works is referred to as “dead” faith.

Many know the “works” part is important and try to incorporate it in their own theolo-

gy. Unfortunately, they get the order wrong. They put the works first, and think that they will save them and prove that they have faith. They think they can work their way to heaven. To prove their faith, they try to do religious ceremonies or do good deeds. They try to clean up their life, try to act righteously, and do many other good works. These acts, as noble as they may appear, are not by faith. They are attempts to pay for God's approval and are not by faith at all. One cannot work one's way to heaven.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith is extending one's trust, unproven and unseen, towards God first. The proof of the trust is that the “works” show one is acting on his faith's behalf. This may seem like a fine line to some, but it is the line that separates the saved from the unsaved. Is your faith manifested by your works of faith?

Have Faith

C. H. Spurgeon

If you believe God's Word you shall know the sweetness of His grace. To ask for more evidence first is as though a man would say, “Here is a medicine

prepared by a physician of great reputation, and it is said to be very powerful for driving out the disease from which I suffer. I will take it as soon as I see that I am improving by its means.”



The man has lost his reason, has he not? He cannot expect even a partial cure till he has taken the medicine. He cannot expect the result to come before the cause. You must take the good physician's medicine as a matter of faith, and afterwards your faith will be increased by the beneficial result.

You must believe on the Lord Jesus, because of the witness of God concerning him, for that is all the witness you ought to wish for, and all that God will give you. After you have believed, other witnesses will spring up in your soul, as the results of faith, and so your confidence will be strengthened; but just now, believe in Jesus Christ, and having believed in him you shall know that you are forgiven for his name's sake.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:36

Reason's and Faith's Conversations

C. H. Spurgeon

Once Reason came along, and heard a man cry, “I am guilty,

guilty.”

She stopped, and said, “The man is guilty. God condemns the guilty, therefore this man will be condemned.” She went away, leaving the man condemned, ruined, and quivering with fear.

Faith came and heard the self-same cry, rendered more bitter by the cruel syllogism of Reason. Faith stopped and said, “The man is guilty. Christ died for the guilty; the man can be saved.” Faith's logic was right. The man lifted up his head, and rejoiced.

Reason came one day, and saw a man naked, and she said, “He hath not on a wedding garment. Can naked souls appear before the judgment of God? Should they have a place at the supper of the Lamb? The man is naked; he must be cast out, for naked ones cannot enter heaven!”

Then Faith came by, and said, “The man is naked; Christ wrought a robe of righteousness. He must have made it for the naked. He would not have made it for those who have a robe of

their own. The robe is for the naked man, and he shall stand in it before God.” Faith's logic was right and just again.

“Faith does not look to God with a cold heart and clouded thoughts concerning things to come. Faith inspires confident expectation in the heart of the believer concerning the promises found in God's Word.”

— Oliver B. Greene