

Five Aspects of Faith

by Dr. Walter L. Wilson

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Faith is constantly exercised in daily life. We go into the store, purchase an article, and say, charge it. If the credit manager has faith in us he permits us to take the goods away and pay for them later. The patient who lies on the operating table permits the anesthetic to be given, and trusts his body to the surgeon, because he has faith in his ability. The passenger retires to his berth in the sleeping car and goes to sleep, because he has faith in those who operate the trains. God brings this same great principle of faith into the matter of the salvation of the soul. Let us consider five aspects of saving faith:

1. Faith In His Name

We read in John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." The name referred to is the title of the Lord. The title means a Saviour. He has this title because He is the only One in all the world who can save a sinner.

Other men have titles which attract customers. If you have a sore tooth you seek one whose name is Dentist. If the pipes in your home are frozen you seek one whose title is Plumber. If your auto is out of order you seek one who is called Mechanic.

The title which one bears tells the nature of the work he can do. The title of JESUS tells what He can do. He saves men who need to be saved. He has the power, the knowledge, the ability, the willingness, and right to save those who are lost. No other religious leader can assume this title. God gave this title to Christ when He spoke by His angel, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

The names of great men bring before us at once those things for which they were noted. The name of Napoleon at once reminds us of war and conquest. The name of Hercules at once speaks to us of physical strength. The name of Edison is immediately associated with the electric light and other electrical products. When we hear the name of Nero we see the human torches blazing on the wall around his garden for his fiendish delight. The name of Moody stirs our hearts anew, as

we remember his power in preaching the Gospel and his ministry to human souls.

The name of JESUS is associated always with the saving of men's souls. He is God's Saviour of men. He is the only One who can put away our sins and blot them out. He never fails to handle successfully every case entrusted to His care. As you journey along the pathway of life, lift up your eyes and you will see that wonderful name JESUS, who is Christ the Lord. He is the Saviour of sinners. As you read this sign, hurry to Him with your case. Your coming will prove that you really believe in His name.

2. Faith In His Person

Not only are we to believe in the name which God has given Christ, but we are also urged to believe in His own blessed person. This truth is found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." On one occasion, when I was a young physician, just beginning to practice medicine, my sign attracted a patient into the office. She believed the sign which gave my title. She needed a physician and decided to give her case over to the man whose name was Dr. Wilson. She entered my office and after I had introduced myself to her, she said, "It must be your father whom I wish to see."

"No," I replied, "he does not come to this city; his practice is in another city."

She looked quite surprised and then asked, "Are you the doctor whose name appears on the sign outside?" When I replied in the affirmative, she said quickly, "Oh, I don't want any boy working on me." She then turned and quickly left the office. My title attracted her, but my youthful appearance repelled her. She felt that I was too much of a boy to be able to handle her case successfully.

The Lord Jesus invites us to believe in His own person. He is fairer than the sons of men. He is wonderful in His personality. He is worthy of the adoring worship of angels. He is of more value than any other person in the universe. If you will gaze upon Him in His triumphant death, you will say with the centurion, "Truly, this was the Son of God." If you gaze upon Him in His glorious resurrection, you will say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God." If you gaze upon Him in the majesty of His ascension, as He sits upon the throne of His glory, you will like John fall at His feet in utter amazement. You are called upon to believe on His own blessed person. Believe on what He is and who

He is. Believe in His attributes and purposes and plans. Believe in His ability and His sufficiency. Trust yourself fully to Him.

3. Faith In His Official Position

God has sent Christ as His own selected and ordained Saviour. God has not chosen any other one to save you. The eternal God invites you to place your faith in this marvelous Man of Calvary in the glory. In John 5:24, we read, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

In the passage to which we have just referred, you are not invited to believe in the name of Christ, nor in the person of Christ, but your attention is called to the fact that God, the great Judge, sent Jesus as His official Saviour. Your trust must be placed in One whom God will accept. You must place your faith in that One whom God has selected as the sin-bearer, the One whom He has appointed. It would be nothing short of a tragedy, an eternal tragedy, if you should trust your soul and yourself to one whom God did not recognize as the proper Saviour. In the passage before us Christ assures us that God did send Him to deliver us from condemnation. He affirms that those who accept this truth, because of the statement of the Scriptures, will be blessed by the gift of eternal life at once, and will never go to the judgment of the great white throne.

That one who commits his soul to the Saviour is immediately blessed with forgiveness. Christ blots out every one of his sins by His own precious blood, and that person is justified, pardoned, and cleansed. Since the sins are blotted out, you can readily see that there would be no need of bringing that one into judgment. There would be nothing to be judged for. Strangely enough, the verse tells us that the believing man is no longer dead in his sins and a stranger to God, but receives the gift of eternal life. In this new life he will live and move for the glory of the One who saved him. If you believe that God sent Christ to save you, then hasten to Him at once, accept Him fully, and become a child of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

4. Faith In His Words

We have seen in the Scriptures that we are called upon to believe in the Name of Jesus, the Person of Jesus, and the Official Character of Jesus. We shall now consider John 8:46, "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" The Lord Jesus on this occasion invited the public to examine all that He had said on every subject. He spoke freely and publicly before great

crowds. He spoke privately to many individuals. He invited a careful examination of all that He had said, and then demanded to know whether He had said anything at any time on any subject that could be criticized as being sinful. What a challenge this was! What an opportunity He gave His enemies to bring an indictment against Him! But having waited for a reply and receiving none, He asked this remarkable question, "If I say the truth, why do you not believe me?"

One evening I was called to a home on a case of sickness. I made a thorough examination of the patient and reported my diagnosis to the anxious family. The husband of the sick lady was rather indignant because of my findings, as I reported them. He refused to believe that the wife was ill with a cancer, as I had said. He did not want me to continue as a physician for his wife, and so he paid me for the call and dismissed me from the case. He did not believe my words. The report I had given was not such as he wanted to hear. He rejected the doctor because of his words.

The Lord Jesus has diagnosed your case and He wants you to believe His words. The diagnosis from heaven is this, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Some come short more than others, but none reach up to God's standards. Some commit more sins than others, but all are guilty. You may not like the report, and you may reject the diagnosis, but our Lord said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." You should believe what He says. He asks, "Why do you not believe?" What answer will you give His inquiry? If you reject His findings, you will not accept His remedy, and this is fatal.

5. Faith In His Works

Those who offer themselves or their products to the public always seek to show samples, in order to inspire the faith of their prospective customers. This principle is used by our Lord in the next passage which we shall consider, John 10:37-38, "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works." The work of our Lord in creation and in salvation is so wonderfully perfect that He invites the most critical to examine with utmost care all His works.

During my young days as a physician, it was most difficult for me to obtain the confidence of those who were ill. My youthful appearance seemed to repel those who were looking for an able and efficient doctor. After two months of waiting and longing for patients to present

themselves, I knelt with my companion in the home and prayed that God would give a very difficult case, and then give me the necessary knowledge and skill in treating that case. I asked for a prominent case, an individual well known in the community who had tried other physicians without success, and was given up as hopeless.

Shortly after praying about this matter, I received a call to go to a certain home where there was a very poor woman who was quite ill with inflammatory rheumatism. Upon arriving at the home, I found that this friend was a washerwoman about 56 years of age. She was suffering greatly and had been confined to her bed for some months. Several physicians had been on the case, only to dismiss themselves after seeking in vain to help her. This was a charity case, for the friend had no money, not even for medicine. I knelt beside her and sought both wisdom and knowledge from the Lord for the wise handling of the patient. I then took from my satchel the remedies which I thought were indicated, prescribed their use to a neighbor who was acting as nurse, and then obtained some ice from the city plant to use for cold applications on the joints. I left her with a prayer for God's blessing. The prayer was heard, and our Lord relieved the lady to such an extent that she was able to be about her work in a little over three weeks.

I had asked the Lord in the prayer at home for a patient to whom I could point with pleasure and say, "That is one of my cases. She was given up by others and I was used to bring about her recovery. Go talk with her and then you'll have confidence in me." It was just such a case that the Lord gave me. This lady washed for the rich people of the city. Her work was confined to very expensive silks, laces, and such like, for which she received better than ordinary pay. She became my great advertisement. Those who saw her brought their cases to me. Those who heard her testimony felt that they could trust me. This case marked the turning point in my practice. The number of patients increased largely and my income increased correspondingly.

The Lord is asking you to consider His workmanship. Ask those who are saved to give you their testimony. Look at the lives of those who have been touched by the power of the living Christ. They are God's witnesses. They are samples of what Christ can do for sinners.

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