

Faith towards God – 3

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You Can Have Faith

God's Plan

God wants you to have life to the fullest – **Jn.10:10**

- Saved, delivered, healed, prospered, blessed -
- He will not test you or give you troubles – **Jam.1:13**
 - Enticed by our lusts = SOWING > Pay the consequences = REAPING – **Gal.6:7-8**
- We do DEAD WORKS because we don't trust God – **Heb.9:14**
 - DEAD WORKS (deeds, efforts) are not sins but the things we do to manipulate God to answer our prayers or accept us
 - WHO/WHAT DO YOU TRUST FOR YOUR SALVATION?
 - Jesus' death, burial and resurrection or your deeds or works
- **Heb.11:6** – Without faith it is impossible to please God
 - Faith is not a power that you must build up to get God to do something
 - Or something we don't have enough and you have to get
 - **Rom.12:3** – God has given us faith, the ability to believe
 - **Rom.2:8** – God has given us enough faith

The Source of Faith (Trusting God)

- **Rom.10:13-17** – Faith is the result of the GOSPEL OF PEACE
 - Faith is simply trusting God, we are all born with that ability
 - Trusting God involves also a decision, our will
 - The problem is: WHAT DO YOU REALLY TRUST?
 - We have faith in the wrong things: our works, our faith, people,
 - People put trust in religious ceremonies and performances
- Having faith is not trying to get God to do something He does not want to do
 - We don't need to believe hard enough
 - We cannot change the mind of God
- Having faith does not mean I always get the specific outcome I desire
 - Having faith means that I believe that God will not hurt me or abandon me

Trusting God is Based on His Faithfulness

- **Rom.8:28** – No matter what the outcomes is, I will emerge victorious because God is with me
 - **1Cor.1:9** – God is faithful – Called you in PARTNERSHIP with His son
 - **1Cor.10:13** – Will not allow you to be tested beyond what we can handle
 - **1Thes.5:24** – Who called you – will do it
 - **2Thes.3:3** – Guard you from evil
 - **1Jn.1:9** – To forgive our sins

God Believes in You

- The Person that influences you most is not the person you believe in, but the one who believes in you
- Called those things that are not as though they were – **Rom.4:17**
 - **Rom.4:3-8** – God calls us righteous

Activating your "faith"

The Role of Agape Love

- **Gal.5:6** – Not circumcision, etc
 - FAITH WORKS BY LOVE (is activated, energized)
 - If you know that somebody loves you, you will trust him
 - If you are afraid of someone, you will not trust him
- We don't trust God enough because we don't love God enough
 - Do you believe that God really loves you?
 - Believing in the love that God has for you activates your faith and your ability to love Him

Developing Love for God

- I DON'T NEED TO DEVELOP FAITH, BUT LOVE FOR GOD
 - Spend time daily to read and meditate on Scriptures on the love that God has for you

- Depth, height, width of the love of God – **Eph.3:17-18**
- **1Jn.4:16** – Perfect (unconditional) love casts out fear
 - The degree of fear in us is sign of not having received God's love
- **I BELIEVE THAT GOD LOVES ME UNCONDITIONALLY**
- **THE ENEMY OF FAITH** is not “unbelief” but believing the wrong thing about God
 - That produces fear

Questions to Consider

1. How is Jn.10:10 related to your faith?
2. Why is understanding the Gospel of Peace essential for our faith?
3. How God's faithfulness and our faith are connected?
4. Please explain Gal.5:6 and what activates our faith?
5. Why is it futile and often damaging to try to develop our faith?
6. How can we overcome all fears?