

# Daniel Banios: How Does your Faith Measure Up? (27/10/18)

## Introduction:

Today I am going to tell you what I am going to be talking about before I do so that even if you fall to sleep you can still know what the sermon was about.

The sermon will be answering these three questions:

1. What is Faith?
  - A gift of God
2. How do we Exercise Faith?
  - Believing and trusting in God
3. What is genuine faith, then
  - Developed in a relationship with God and living by it!

Hebrews 11:1 - "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

## Faith vs Positive Thinking:

Positive thinking as a definition of faith has its basis in self-centredness.

True faith has its basis in selflessness.

Genuine faith is more than positive thinking.

Romans 12:1-3 - Everyone receives the measure of faith as a gift.

## Quantitative vs Qualitative:

- Luke 17:5,6 - "Increase our faith"
- Matthew 17:20 - Quantity? or Quality?

## Faith vs Presumption:

How do we exercise faith?

- Some would say it is by 'claiming God's promises.'
- But what about when that doesn't work?
- Was the problem the faith? or God?

Isaiah 43:2 - "neither shall the flames consume you"

- With that in mind, why did Huss and Jerome die?
- Why did John the Baptist die?
- Are the promises faulty?
- The promise are spiritual...

*"It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love." Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles pg 52*

*"It is peace that you need—Heaven's forgiveness and peace and love in the soul. Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot procure it, wisdom cannot attain to it; you can never hope, by*

*your own efforts, to secure it. But God offers it to you as a gift, "without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1. It is yours if you will but reach out your hand and grasp it. The Lord says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Ellen White, CSA pg 29*

*"Under the Holy Spirit's working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, [will learn] to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled. As in humility they [submit] to the moulding influence of the Holy Spirit, they [will receive] of the fullness of the Godhead and [will be] fashioned in the likeness of the divine." Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles pg 49*

### **What is Faith?**

Greek: Faith = 'Belief' or 'Trust'

Example:

- 1 John 5:4 - "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith (trust)."
- Acts 16:31 - "So they said, "Believe (Trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- 1 Timothy 6:12 - "Fight the good fight of faith (trust)."

Cheap Faith says 'just believe'

Genuine Faith = belief & trust!

Two conditions to being able to trust anyone:

1. find someone who is absolutely trustworthy
2. you must get to know that person

Genuine faith trusts in God no matter what happens/is happening!

God is absolutely trustworthy!

If you don't trust Him... you need to get to know Him!

Galatians 2:15,16 - Placing our confidence in Him.

Keys to Trusting someone:

1. Talk - Prayer
2. Listen - Bible Study
3. Hang out - Service

Ephesians 2:8 - Salvation is a gift from God

Romans 12:3 - Everyone was given a measure of faith

This is a gift, not wages!

Take the measure of faith you've been given and making application by distrusting God.

I do not fight for faith... I fight to know God!

Don't focus on your faith, but focus on knowing God.

**Thesis:** Don't concentrate on your faith or lack of it

**Hypothesis 1:** The more you focus on the Giver of salvation, the more you trust Him.

**Hypothesis 2:** The more you trust the Giver of salvation, the more your faith develops in Him.

**Hypothesis 3:** The more your faith develops in the Giver, the better the quality of your faith... and everything else shall be added unto you! (quantity of your faith).

All of us have faith (trust)!

Where is your faith centred?