

“A Faith Building Exercise” John 20:8-10

John knew that a Jew has a lifestyle of morality by keeping the Law but he now knows that there was not a way of salvation in that morality.

This does not even remotely suggest that we should be immoral; a lifestyle of morality is desirable but it must not be distorted by arrogance nor applied in foolishness.

As prescribed by the devil himself, man’s main distortion is the substitution of self-righteousness for the freely offered and given imputed righteousness of God to all who trust Him.

Once a person truly understands the imputation of divine righteousness; it eliminates the necessity for any form of self-promotion or works righteousness used to gain God’s attention.

What can we learn from this? Never make the crucial mistake of trying to present our own works as a system of seeking blessing from God.

God accepts only His own righteousness; He never accepts self-righteousness or works righteousness of any kind from any member of His creation.

The plan of God is divided into three parts: Phase1, salvation; Phase2, experiential sanctification; Phase3, ultimate glorification.

Faith is only involved in Phases1 and 2 because in eternity, we will see Him even as we are seen and we will know Him even as we are known!

And faith is wonderful when it’s properly channeled but if not, all the believing in the world gains nothing from God but the tiniest bit of faith in Jesus Christ secures eternal salvation with God and that’s everything!

So actually, faith is nothing we do; it’s the conduit whereby we appropriate what God has done for us.

So how do we strengthen our faith with spiritual muscle? We take the biblical truth we’ve learned and use or apply it in pressure situations or even better yet, use it in some disaster situation.

Our dedicated occupation with the Lord Jesus is the primary manner in which we face every difficulty of life and in the process, demonstrate the greatest possible power to handle them.

Grace is non-meritorious, making it compatible with faith which is a system of biblical truth or what is believed about someone or something and for the Church Age believer, the object of faith is the Lord Jesus, the Living Word but today in His absence, our object of faith is the mind of Christ or the written Word.

We must have proper soul shelter just as we have proper physical shelter and God’s righteousness in us is the foundation while His Word is the building material.

And the completed building is the mature believer who graciously with capacity receives special divine blessings to God’s target in him, His imputed righteousness and this level of blessing glorifies God magnificently in time!

So, remember, faith is not something we do; it’s the channel by which we appropriate what God has done for us.

THE FAITH-REST LIFE:

1. Faith-rest claims promises from the Bible and mixes them with faith response.

2. Mature faith claims deeper doctrinal rationales like:

The Essence of God Rationale, The Plan of God Rationale, The Living-grace Rationale, The ‘A Fortiori’ Rationale and the Election and predestination Rationale.

3. Faith then reaches Biblical conclusions and is in control

of the situation as a result and this becomes the normal function of spiritual self-esteem.

Our relationship with the integrity of God is greater than any pressure or disaster we could ever face in life and it's more important than anything in life, whether it's our pressures, failures or glorious successes.

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love Me and those who seek Me find Me.

Faith is accepting something as true, only as it relies on understanding and comprehension and faith is not feeling, commitment or an invitation.

Faith involves free-will expression and knowledge and therefore, believing something is true.

Agreeing with what is believed to be a true proposition is intellectual ascent.

So, understanding the proposition becomes vitally important.

Faith agrees with the validity of a biblical conclusion making it the acceptance of and the agreement with God's truth.

Faith is intellectual ascent requiring volition but faith is not simply a matter of individual choice, it is profoundly evidentiary.

The problem with many today is that they are agreeing with or accenting to the wrong proposition.

And our relationship with the Lord Jesus must begin with a proposition because none of us have known Him personally!