A Genuine Faith

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INT:

NO WAY to overemphasize the imp. of a genuine faith in Christ Jesus, our Lord!
EMPHASIS is on word "genuine"="sincere and free of hypocrisy." Pure trust. No doubts.
SOME expressions of Jesus on the subject:
Matter of eternal life or death!!! Vital???

I. GENUINE FAITH DEFINED:

A. King James: substance things want in future! evidence--testimony of reality!!
B. Amer. Rev. Ver.: assurance of eternal sal. conviction of the reality.
D. MONT-A-PERT: Faith is confidence in ACTION!!!
E. THAYER confirms that ACTION is necessary for faith to be genuine. Defines faith: Acceptance of Christ as the Son of God...COJOINED WITH obedience to His teachings in God's Word.

III. Albert Schweitzer had it where others didn't! Book by GEO. MARSHALL & DAVID POLING tells of Schweitzer's disgust of his friends: Albert announces he going to Africa as Med. Dr. Response irritated him. Quote: "What irritated Schweitzer more than anything else was the unexpected shallowness and conservatism of so many so-called "Christian" friends and acquaintances. Most supposed to be active church members. They were AGHAST that anyone would SERIOUSLY respond to the challenging words of Jesus! They thought it IRRATIONAL for a man in the 20th century to actually FEEL constrained to LIVE the words of Jesus. (Doubleday, 1971, p.60)

NOTE: His friends accepted a distant/safe/beautiful/ and non-demanding Christ! NO SUCH!!!

* Matt. 16:24-27.

(LOCAL: But we lack OPPORTUNITY!! Not so!
QUESTION: What is your Christian Faith compelling you to do which is in any way a sacrifice??????
II. WHAT DOES GENUINE FAITH DO?

A. It makes us do when others don't!!!

1. *James 2:14-20. All Christians should beat the devils. Devils DON'T do anything for Jesus.

2. Ill. Gina proves this is so. Selected to go on Calif. evangelistic campaign. Excited. Thrilled. CYNIC: "What's one wide-eyes little innocent Christian girl going to accomplish in the big roaring surf of California sin??"

   Her reply: "Well/ after all, I'm not committed to changing the whole state. As a matter of fact, I'm not committed to changing anybody!! But I AM committed to TRYING and to BE a Christian in the presence of those people while I'm there!" ACTIVE!!

B. Ill. * Heb. 11:4. Abel worshipped right!! True faith leads us to worship right too. No more COMMUNION ONLY Christians!!


   Quote: "A declaration of war can often make it a crime for one person to LOVE or HELP another if he or she happens to live on the other side of A LINE drawn between enemies!! In a civil war a man may even be branded a traitor if he gives comfort to his own BROTHER, SISTER, FATHER, MOTHER, SON or DAUGHTER."

   In 1861 the Board of Managers of the ABS decided to walk with God regardless!! They said, "We are determined to place a copy of the Bible or a New Testament in the hands of every soldier, BOTH in the North AND in the South. Results: All generals on both sides let over 300,000 Bibles, Testaments and portions of scripture thru the lines in a sort of "Truce of God." We're BOLD when we walk with God!!

   INV: * Heb. 11:7. God's def. of GENUINE faith!

   Noah was WARNED of God. You too! Mk. 16:15-19.

   Noah was MOVED with fear (a cautiousness which led to reverence). Faith acts: Acts 2:38.

   Noah PREPARED an ark....saved his family.

   FAITH PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE!!!!

   Not a Christian...yet?? Matt. 11:28-30.


   Identify.
I. Understanding the definition of Faith essential to knowing whether we have it or not.

A. King James: Substance evidence.
B. Revised Vers: Assurance conviction.
C. Robinson's Lex. Confidence conviction. Like this one?
D. God defines faith by examples in Hebrews 11.
   1. Confidence of things hoped for.
   2. Conviction of things not seen.
      b. Abram- called of God. Evidence. Went out!

II. HOW DOES FAITH COME TODAY?

A. Same way as always. Mark 16:15-16.
B. Process of its coming. Romans 10:13-17. (R)

III. WHAT DOES GENUINE FAITH DO?

B. Justifies the sinner. Romans 5:1.
C. Crucifies the fleshly man. Romans 6:1-8. (R)
E. EXAMPLE: 3,000,000 gift to Peppersdine College.

Inv.

Results of believing. Eph. 3:17.
Process described in Gal. 3:24-29 (R)

If not already baptized into Christ, urged to do so.
If not in God's favor, urge you to return in Rep.
If moved into area, urge you to select a church home soon and invite you to share ours with us.
INTRO: Lesson approp. any time, place, conditions.
Subject concerns fluctuating condition. Up-down.
Never have enough of it, nor too much. Need more all
Study into problems of acceptable faith in Christ.

I. DEFINITION OF FAITH ESSENTIAL TO PROPER UNDERSTANDING.

A. Webster's definition not sufficient, unsatisfactory.
B. King James Version... Substance... Evidence.
C. Revised Version... Assurance... Conviction.
D. Robinson's lexicon... Confidence... Conviction.
E. Best definition, God's own in Bible by examples.

1. Confidence in things hoped for.
   c. Moses 11:27 A New Life. Had only a promise.
   a. Noah—Warned of God—Evidence, then Conviction.
   b. Abram—Called of God—Testimony, then Conviction.
   c. Moses—Chosen of God—Revelation, then Conviction.

II. HOW DOES FAITH COME TODAY? Acceptable.

A. Miraculous, as above? I Cor. 12:9 See 13:10 also.
B. To all the same way. Mark 16:15-16.
C. By accepting the testimony. Rom. 10:13-17.
   III. Navajo Indian and Chr. doctor. (Per. Ill. P. 20)

III. WHAT DOES IT DO WHEN IT COMES?


IV. HOW CAN WE TELL IF WE ARE IN THE FAITH? Text-Examine!

A. Have you real confidence in testimony of Christ?
B. Do you have a conviction about unseen things? Heaven.
C. Does your heart seek to please God?
D. Do you want to be justified from sins?
E. Are you willing to die to the old man?
F. Are you anxious to work for the Lord through love?

INV. Jesus made faith possible. Heb. 12:2. We determine its influence. You show faith by resp. to Inv. song.