

SUNDAY NOTES 9-25-11

WHAT ARE THE BASICS ABOUT FAITH?

* Let's take a look at two basic faith scriptures. Hebrews 11:1,6, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (substance: or, ground, or, confidence) 6 But **without faith it is impossible to please (to gratify entirely) him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. To please or gratify God nothing can be used to substitute faith.

* Is God not honored by our good works? Oh yes, He is honored, we read in Ephesians 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." The thing we need to remember is that nothing not good works, not hope, not even agape love can be substitutions for faith in pleasing God.

* There are three important questions about faith that we need to answer. Then we need to implement those answers in our lives to please God and live in His redemptive rewards. 1) What is faith? 2) How do we get faith? 3) How do we get faith to work?

* In Hebrews 11:1, we read that faith will not work without hope. What are things that we hope for? Strength, healing, finances, joy, reconciliation, favor, forgiveness, and there are more that we can find that are available to us in the Word of God. Hoping for these things is good but hoping has no substance or means of receiving. Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe (**not hope for**) that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

* Hoping is desiring something to manifest in the future. Faith finds scripture in the Word of God that pertains to what we are hoping for and says according to the Word of God it's mine, therefore, I believe it is mine NOW. For example, if one is hoping for strength, faith finds Psalms 118:14, "The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation." and declares I believe this scripture and I have strength now.

* Faith takes that hope and gives it substance. (Hebrews 11:1, "**Now faith is the substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.") The evidence that we have it now is the scripture that we have deposited within our hearts and what is being declared out of our mouths. Just a point of common sense, we never hope for what we already possess. What we possess has substance, it's real. Faith is grasping the unrealities of hope and brings it into reality.

* When we first read scripture pertaining to the thing we hope for, that scripture is in our heads and not in our hearts. Faith is going over and over the scripture until it drops from our heads to our hearts. If we will stay with it, it may not drop over night but it will drop. Let's look at healing scriptures. Proverbs 4:20-22, " My son, **attend to my words**; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. {health: Heb. medicine} Attending is meditating over and over on the Word of God. **Remember, faith pleases God and He is a rewarder to those who diligently seek Him.**