

Faith and the Promises of God

March 10, 2013

I. Review:

- A. Faith comes from understanding the gospel
- B. Lessons of faith righteousness
- C. Definitions of Faith
- D. 10 adjectives describing levels of faith

II. The kind of faith that pleases God.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Heb 11:39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

A. Must believe that God is ...

1. That He exists?

James 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

2. Believe that He is (His attributes)

3. God will reveal Himself to us according to how we see Him.

2 Sam 22:26-27 David says:

With the kind You show Yourself kind,
With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;
With the pure You show Yourself pure,
With the perverted You show Yourself astute.

Ps 18:26 ... with the crooked You show Yourself astute
(Ps 18:25-26)

Matt 25:24-25 parable of the talents

And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

Luke 19:20-21 parable of the minas

20 'Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.'

Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness because of their incorrect view of God (Deut 1:22-36).

vs. 27-28 and you grumbled in your tents and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. 28'Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim there."

B. Must believe that God rewards seekers.

God desires to give us a confident faith; The example of Abraham (Heb 6:12-20).

Heb 6:16-20 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us,

1. Abraham knew the nature of God.

Heb 6:12-20 it is impossible for God to lie.

Heb 11:17-19 God is able to raise men even from the dead.

Rom 4:16-22 God gives life to the dead,
God calls into being that which does not exist,
God was able to perform what He promised.

2. Abraham knew God's promises to him.

Heb 6:12-20 I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you.

Heb 11:17-19 in Isaac your descendents shall be called.

Rom 4:16-22 a father of many nations I have made you; so shall your descendents be.

III. Faith in God is always based on His promises.

Abraham's faith was based on God's promise (Rom 4:13-16; 4:20; 9:8-9; Gal 3:16 Heb 11:17).

Jesus is the promised seed made to Abraham

Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, " And to your seed," that is, Christ.

Isaac and Jacob for also heirs of promise Heb 11:9

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise made to the Old Testament fathers. Acts 13:32-33; Rom 15:8

The gospel is the fulfillment of the promise made to the Old Testament fathers. Acts 26:6-7

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise descendent of David. Acts 13:22-23

God's promise is given to those who believe

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Inheritance is based on God's promise (Gal 3:17-18).

Inheritance is based on promise and not performance (Gal 3:16-20).

We inherit the promises of God through faith and patience (Heb 6:11-15).

Our faith is based on God's promise

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

We participate in God's covenant through His promise. Eph 2:12-13

We receive and partake of God's promises through Christ

2 Tim 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus

1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

Heb 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Gal 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Gal 4:28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise .

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

In Christ we can receive all of God's promises.

2 Cor 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us

His promises will lead to a holy life.

2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises , beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Peter 1:3-4 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises , so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

The new covenant is a better covenant, with better promises.

Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises