

The Wonder of Faith

Introduction:

This morning we are looking at the wonder of faith. There has been much attention given to the topic of faith over the years. Many theologians have discussed and dissected faith to such a degree that we can miss out on the wonder of faith. Faith to some degree has two perspectives; firstly it is Divine and secondly it is Earthly. Let me begin by saying that the wonder of faith must begin with the Divine and be seen through God's character.

Divine Faithfulness:

We are told all through the Scriptures of a God faithful. There are so many words that describe God's faithfulness; his is loyal, devoted to his people, trustworthy, dependable and reliable. The list could go on and on in describing the wonder of faith as seen in God. Here are a few Scriptures to affirm God's faithfulness:

- **Deut 7:9 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...**
- **Deut 32:4 – “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.**
- **Psalm 100:5 - For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**
- **1 Cor 1:9 - God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- **2 Thess 3:2 - But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.**
- **Rev 19:11 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.**

We can honestly agree that God is faithful in all he does as we see in the Scriptures. Knowing that the faithfulness of God is not simply contained within himself but directed towards his creation is a wonder. It has always been God's passion to share his life with his creation, especially mankind. This divine aspect of God's faithfulness truly becomes awe inspiring especially in the life of a believer. God never meant for us to be alone but to experience his personal presence, his lasting loyalty and his forever faithfulness. The wonder of God's faithfulness leads us to our Earthly experience of faith. We must never forget about his faithfulness and we now look at the earthly expressions of faith.

Earthly Faith:

The Divine Faithfulness of God naturally leads us to our earthly experience of faith. There are many aspects of faith as related to mankind. Faith involves belief in God and trust in man's heart toward God. Faith is closely connected with obedience as we live out our Christianity. Faith and prayer go hand in hand as we walk with God. One of the first messages Jesus spoke while on earth was "repent and believe". Jesus desperately wanted both Jews and Gentiles to put their faith in God and to live appropriately. We are told that we are saved by grace, through faith and that it is a gift to us from God and not our own doing (**Eph 2:8**).

The Scriptures tell us one of the fruits of the Spirit is faithfulness and that one of the gifts of the Spirit is faith. God has supplied all that we need to live rightly in the Fruit of the Spirit and all that we need to reveal the Kingdom in the Gifts of the Spirit. God has assigned every Christian a "measure of faith" associated with various spiritual gifts, designed to contribute to the mission of the body of Christ, therefore we ought not to think of ourselves too highly (**Rom 12:3-8**).

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebr 11:1). This passage is considered one of the most concise definitions of faith given in the Scriptures. Faith is synonymous with belief, and both are translated from the same Greek word.

The writer of Hebrews goes on to reveal the importance of faith in our relationship with God. **Hebr 11: 6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.** As much as faith is a gift from God we must understand that this faith is not a 'blank check'. We must be diligent seekers of God as an act of our faith in God.

One of the primary ways of seeking after God is prayer. We are told over and over in the Scriptures that the prayer of faith can accomplish great things. Whether in the Old Testament when Elijah calls down fire on the prophets of Baal or we are simply praying for a sick person to better; the prayer of faith and trust in God is essential.

So as we consider the wonder of faith, let's be faithful seekers of God thereby encountering more of God's faithfulness in our lives day by day...