

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It
SERMON REFERENCE:	Romans 10:11-17
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1749

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The measurement that will measure what we accomplish in our Christian life is faith.
 - i) Matthew 9:29
 - (1) Not according to our fame, our feelings, our fortune, our friends or our fate, but according to our faith.
- b) Faith is the medium of exchange in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - i) When we go to the grocery store, we use money to buy groceries.
 - ii) But we receive from God by faith.
- c) Faith is the greatest asset that we have; unbelief is the greatest stumbling block.
 - i) Unbelief is the chief wickedness.
 - ii) The sin of all sins is unbelief.
 - (1) It was unbelief that caused Eve to sin against God in the Garden of Eden.
 - (a) She failed to believe the Word of God.
 - (2) It was unbelief that caused the Israelites not to go into the Promised Land.
 - (a) Hebrews 3:19
 - (3) It was unbelief that tied the hands of Jesus when He was in His own hometown.
 - (a) Matthew 13:58
 - (i) The sovereign God has limited Himself to work according to the faith, the belief of the people of God.
- d) Unbelief is the sin that sends people to Hell.
 - i) John 3:18
 - (1) It is unbelief that shuts the door to Heaven.
- e) Mark 9:23
 - i) In the spiritual realm, if we do not believe, nothing is possible.
- f) Romans 1:17
 - i) Just as we live physically by breathing and eating, we live spiritually by faith.
- g) Romans 10:11-17
 - i) "Shall not be ashamed" literally means that he will not be put to shame.
- h) The blessings of God will come to us if we will learn to believe Him.
- i) It is absolutely necessary that we learn how to believe God.

2) THE REALITY OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:11)

- a) Faith must have the right object to be real faith.
 - i) Romans 10:11
- b) There is no power in faith alone.
 - i) There is nothing mystical or magical about just believing.
- c) Faith is no better than its object.
 - i) Misplaced faith is a dangerous thing.

- ii) It is not faith that moves mountains; it is God that moves mountains.
 - (1) Mark 11:22
 - (2) John 3:15-16
- d) Faith is not positive thinking.
 - i) If we make faith just simply positive thinking, then we will get discouraged.
- e) If we put faith in faith, we will be a sitting duck for the devil.
 - i) The devil will say that we're not good enough to be saved.
 - (1) We ought to say that we don't have faith in ourselves.
 - ii) The devil will say that there are hypocrites in the church.
 - (1) We ought to say that we're not putting faith in hypocrites, but we're trusting the Lord.
 - iii) The devil will question our feelings.
 - (1) We ought to say that we're not trusting in feelings but trusting in the Lord.
 - iv) The devil will question whether our faith is good enough, strong enough and the real thing.
 - (1) We should not put faith in our faith; our faith should be in Jesus.
- f) The least amount of faith in the right object is better than strong faith in the wrong object.
 - i) We are to believe Him.
 - ii) Hebrews 12:2
- g) We're to be looking to Jesus.
 - i) Don't look at your look; don't put faith in your faith.
 - (1) Put faith in God.
- h) God will honor even weak faith.
 - i) Mark 9:20-27
 - (1) The father in this passage had a weak faith, but it was a faith in God.
 - ii) This is not to say that we should have weak faith; it is far better to have strong faith.
 - iii) Matthew 17:20
 - (1) The least amount of faith is greater than the greatest amount of difficulty if it is faith in God.
- i) The way to have strong faith is to put your faith in God; find out who God is.
 - i) When we put our faith in God, our faith will grow.
 - ii) Faith comes from a knowledge of God.
 - (1) Romans 10:11
 - iii) If you want to have strong faith, don't try to make yourself believe; get to know God.
 - iv) Psalm 9:10
 - v) Daniel 11:32
- j) Faith is no better than its object; we must know God.

3) THE ROOT OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:14)

- a) All true Biblical faith is rooted not only in knowing God, but in hearing from the God we know.
- b) Romans 10:14, 17
 - i) In order to have faith, we must hear from God.
 - (1) We cannot know the will of God by guessing at it.
 - ii) In verse 17, it says that faith comes.
 - (1) We don't generate faith; it comes.
 - (a) God gives faith.
- c) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - i) Faith is the gift of God.
 - (1) Grace is the gift of God, and so is the faith to receive the grace.
- d) Philippians 1:29
 - i) It is given to us to believe; God gives faith.
- e) No one can believe God unless God enables him to believe.
 - i) God gives us His Word.
 - (1) This is how He enables us to believe.
 - (2) Romans 10:17
 - ii) We don't name and claim it.
 - (1) God speaks, and we believe it and receive it.
- f) Hebrews 11:1
 - i) The word "hope" in the Bible means bedrock assurance based on the promise of God.
 - (1) It is assurance mingled with anticipation.
 - (a) This is why the Bible calls the second coming of Jesus "the blessed hope."
 - (i) Titus 2:13
 - (ii) It is the blessed hope, not the blessed maybe.
 - (iii) We know He is coming because He said so.
 - ii) The Greek word "substance" means something beneath that we can stand on.
 - (1) When we're living by faith, we're not walking around on eggshells and jello.
 - (a) Faith is not jello; it is the substance of things hoped for, the things that God has said.
- g) The root of faith is the Word of God.
 - i) Romans 10:17
- h) How does God communicate His Word? How does God speak?
 - i) There are two words in the Greek language for "Word."
 - (1) One is "logos."
 - (a) Jesus is called the "Logos," the Word of God.
 - (b) The Logos is the Bible, the written Word that tells of the Living Word.
 - (i) The Revelation of God, given in Christ, revealed in the Bible.
 - (2) The other word is "rhema."

- (a) This is the word that is used in Romans 10:17.
 - (i) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God.
 - (b) “Rhema” means an utterance, a spoken word.
 - (i) It is a word from the Word.
 - (ii) When we read the Bible (the Logos), it begins to speak to us out of the Word of God.
 - 1. We get a rhema from the Logos.
 - 2. We hear from God in our hearts.
 - ii) We must hear from God.
 - (1) It is not enough just to hear a sermon.
 - (a) Romans 10:14
 - iii) God speaks to us and gives us something when we’re reading the Bible or praying, and God puts that portion in our hearts.
 - (1) Does God speak to you?
 - (a) Are you listening?
 - (b) Do you have a quiet time?
 - (c) Are you saturated with the Word of God?
 - (d) Are you ready to do His will?
 - (e) Do you want to hear Him?
 - (f) Are you reporting for duty?
 - iv) The root of faith is the rhema of God.
- 4) THE RESULT OF BIBLICAL FAITH
- a) The purpose of faith is not to get man’s will done in Heaven, but to get God’s will done on Earth.
 - b) The result of faith is the will of God.
 - i) We cannot have faith unless we hear from God.
 - ii) What we will hear from God is the will of God.
 - c) We cannot have faith for anything that is not the will of God.
 - i) If it is not the will of God, then there is no possible way that we can have faith for it because faith is the gift of God.
 - ii) Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and God is not going to give us a word on something that is not His will.
 - (1) This keeps God in control.
 - (2) If we could just believe for whatever we want and have it, then we would easily make a mess of things, and it would put us in the driver’s seat rather than God.
 - iii) This does not mean fewer blessings for us.
 - (1) It means more blessings for us.
 - (a) The will of God is not something we have to do; it is something we get to do.
 - d) 1 John 5:14

5) THE RELEASE OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:16-18)

- a) True faith does more than merely believe; it obeys.
 - i) If what we say we believe does not translate into action, then we don't really believe.
 - b) Romans 10:16-18
 - i) When we believe the Gospel, we are to obey it.
 - (1) Faith is belief with legs on it.
 - c) Romans 10:21
 - i) God spoke, but they didn't obey.
 - (1) Not everyone will obey the Gospel; not everyone will release their faith.
 - ii) The word "gainsaying" means "obstinate."
 - (1) We debate.
 - (a) We hear the Word of God, we hear God speak, but we parade it past the judgment bar of our minds and choose not to believe it or obey it.
 - d) We must release our faith by obedience.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) When the Lord Jesus hung on Calvary's cross, He united God and man.
 - i) With His blood, Jesus reconciled God and man.
 - ii) Romans 5:10
 - b) We will not get to Heaven by the works that we do.
 - c) We will not get to Heaven by our reason or logic.
 - d) We will only get to Heaven through redemption.
 - i) Trust and obey Jesus.
 - e) The release of our faith is believing God and obeying Him.
 - f) Have you given your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i) Do you trust Him to save you?
 - g) Pray to Jesus now, asking Him to come into your life.
 - h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16