

Hebrews 6.11-12

Patience and Promise

We have been considering hope, its power and its purpose. Hope has a sister, a twin sister named faith. Faith is a synonym for trust, and it is about faith & trust that we need to think today. The whole question of salvation revolves around trust, trusting God at His word, trusting His ability to keep His promises, and trusting His veracity in making them. We are saved because God does everything needful to save us, He has sent His Son, accepted His sacrifice, raised Him from the dead and given His Spirit as a guarantee... but none of this matters to us until we take Him at His word and believe Him. And we cannot do THAT until He changes our hearts to enable us to believe. So why do we still proclaim the gospel, and preach the power of the cross? It is because firstly, God commands it, and secondly, He has promised (there it is again) that the gospel is the thing He uses to bring life to the dead... it is the one tool we have been given with a promised power.

I. THE PROMISE INHERITED

a. The forgiveness of sin

Ephesians 1.3-10

1Peter 1.6-9

b. The removal of all guilt

Hebrews 9.11-15

c. Acceptance according to the law

Colossians 2.11-15

d. The adoption as sons

Galatians 4.4-7

e. The inheritance as heirs

Romans 8.15-17

f. The home for eternity

John 14.1-6

II. THE PATIENT FAITH THAT INHERITS

a. Belief in the person of Christ

- i. He is the ONLY way to the Father
- ii. He is able to do all that He promised to do
 1. Die for His own sheep, and pay for their sin/guilt

John 10.1-18

2. Be raised again as evidence of the payment accepted

Romans 4.23-25

3. Heal all of our afflictions, infirmities, bondages and sorrows...

Isaiah 53.3-6

Matthew 11.27-30

4. Set us free from the power of death so that we might believe and repent, turn from our sin and call on Christ for forgiveness

John 6:43–47 (NKJV) ⁴³ Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

John 3:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

5. Return to take us to be with Him forever

John 14:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Acts 1:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you

into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

1Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- b. Belief past what we can see, know or imagine
 - i. There is no way for us to KNOW any of this apart from the faith that was delivered once for all is true.... However;
 - 1. No one could have, no one would have made this up, it is just too far past what is possible for us to even consider...
 - 2. Our efforts at falsifying God's salvation will ALWAYS result in a works based salvation that puts us and our abilities at the center of it all

- a. Action
- b. Intention
- c. Thought
- d. Worth etc...

ii. While there is no real physical proof, there is MUCH evidence

1. apart from the historical record of Jesus,
2. the historical record of the resurrection,
3. the evidence of the world, transformed by the testimony of twelve uneducated and unremarkable men
4. The evidence of the working of the Spirit in our hearts...

iii. But the ability to accept this evidence is predicated on a changed heart... the determined sinful bent of the fallen heart rejects God and the evidence of His power completely...

Romans 1.18-23; 28-32

- iv. This simple fact destroys forever the idea of free will forever. NO ONE seeks after God

Romans 3.10-12

- v. Therefore, when we actually DO believe, it is the profound evidence that God has done something miraculous in our hearts. That HE has done what He promised for us, and that our hearts will now begin to trust what God has said, and have confident faith in HIM, in HIS PROMISE and in the POWER of HIS WORD.

c. Belief in the faithfulness of God

- i. This is the crux of the whole matter...

Isaiah 55.1-13

- ii. Does God mean what He says regardless of our fear?
- iii. Can God be trusted to keep His word, no matter what?

Proverbs 30.4-6

- iv. Has He ever been proven false in any way?

III. TRUST DESPITE ALL CIRCUMSTANCE

- a. Just because we cannot see what God will do, does not mean for one instant that He is not doing what He promised.
- b. Just because we cannot see the good end, does not mean it is not there
 - i. Just because we cannot understand just how all things fit together does not mean that they don't...

Romans 8.28-30

- ii. Therefore, preach the gospel of Christ and trust that hearts will be made alive according to the good pleasure of God! No matter what you see in them, or how they reject and fight, trust that God's word is doing exactly what He promises it will do and that He will have His way in the exact moment that He has always intended to have His way.

Romans 10:7–17