

***Our devotion today as is an outline of the message at
Belfield Baptist Church for May 2, 2021.***

I Peter 2:1-5 - SAVING FAITH, SPIRITUAL IN NATURE

To understand the nature of true faith is of the very highest importance, both to our true peace here and final place of abode. Many people or I should say all people have a form of faith, but is it the true FAITH? Is it the I AM faith?

It is only true faith that can benefit us. It is a sad day when a person or a group of people will base their faith upon something other than the true form of faith that we find in this book.

Those who are truly religious are a **"spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."** I Peter 2:5

According to this verse Saving Faith is Spiritual in nature; that is, that it pertains to the heart and mind.

What does this mean to us?

I. SAVING FAITH IS SOMETHING MORE THAN AN INTELLECTUAL PRINCIPLE.

1. A person may understand the truths of the bible intellectually, and not be possessed of saving faith. He can argue it but cannot live it.
2. He may read and see the doctrines and precepts of faith and not accept it.
3. He may be familiar with its divine truths and yet be entirely a stranger to the life of God in the soul. Do you feel Him?
4. He may admit the Divine existence, attributes, works, law etc.
5. He may admit the great doctrines relating to Christ's person, work, and office.
6. He may admit to the doctrines of repentance and see the necessity of holiness, etc.

7. His mind may be well stored with great truths, and yet be as lost as Satan himself. Because he is not spiritual in nature.

II. SAVING FAITH IS MORE THAN A REGARD TO THE CEREMONIALS OF CHRISTIANITY.

We have a ceremony that we follow, or I should say ceremonies and even though we observe these we are in no way saving ourselves. We might hear the Word preached, be baptized, and partake of the Lord's Supper and still be lost.

Just because we go through the motions of Church life does not mean that we are Christ like.

III. SAVING FAITH IS SOMETHING MORE THAN MORALITY.

There can be no acceptable faith without morality, but there may be much morality without faith.

Whatever excellent morality is, it is not saving faith. Giving, helping, love, etc. Good neighbors do not mean true Christians.

If Christianity is more than what we have already mentioned, then what is it?

IV. SAVING FAITH IS SPIRITUAL IN ITS SOURCE.

1. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. Man is dead to God and alive to the world. The Holy Spirit reminds him of this, and we have a desire to live for God instead of the world.

2. Faith includes a new faith, or regeneration. The Bible says that:
"We must be born of spirit as well as water."

There are just too many people born of water and not spirit.

3. Saving faith is called circumcision. We are to be circumcised from the world in our hearts.

4. Our bodies are to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. But are they?

V. SAVING FAITH IS EVIDENCED IN ITS SPIRITUAL EFFECTS AND FRUIT. There will be:

1. Spiritual desires: Do you have them?
2. Spiritual affections: The Love of Spiritual things.
3. Spiritual communion: Fellowship with other Christians.
4. Spiritual exercises. The exercise of reading, hearing, and praying, will be performed with enjoyment.

In closing let us:

1. Not be satisfied with the name and form of faith.
2. Remember that true faith is internal in the heart.
3. It will produce the fruits of holiness.
4. All that is essential to spiritual faith the gospel reveals.

Do you have the saving faith, which is spiritual in nature, if not why not today?

As we think about what is going on today in the world, it is necessary that we cleave unto the Lord in all situations. We need to hold on to what God has given us and made possible in Saving Faith.

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