

8-26-18

THE BENEFITS OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

THE BENEFITS OF FAITH IN GOD.

WHAT BENEFITS DO WE RECEIVE WHEN WE EXERCISE FAITH IN CHRIST?

What does God want from you and from me? Does He not want your heart, faith, and trust?

Hebrews 11 Gives us some of the benefits we receive from God by having faith.

First and Foremost, our faith saves us.

EPH 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

EPH 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

But there are other benefits above salvation:

I. OUR FAITH GIVES US HOPE.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is **the substance of things hoped** for, the evidence of things not seen.

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

I Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

My hope is not in this world..

My hope is not in this life only...

Before 1974 I lived only for success in this life. I had dreams and ambitions, and goals. When I surrendered my life to Christ, I laid down all these ambitions at His feet, and now my sole purpose should be to please Him.

When a person becomes a Christian he can't lose because he trades all that he will lose for that which can never be taken from him.

THE BIBLE. explains how to live a better life in this world.

People can't get along. This book explains how to dwell together in love.

Even if there is no eternity (which the world erroneously promotes), if a person commits their life to Christ they would still have lived a healthier, happier, more peaceful life, and would have lost nothing to live for God.

THE BIBLE promises eternal life to those who believe on Him.

II. OUR FAITH GIVES US ANSWERS AND UNDERSTANDING:

FAITH WILL SET OUR MINDS AT EASE AND GIVE US ANSWERS FOR THINGS UNBELIEVERS HAVE NO ANSWERS FOR:

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

If this universe is a biological product of chance, than how do we know that we will not be annihilated. by nature or some comet, etc.. Of course, this is the why for all the environmental panic today. Unbelievers do not know, and they feel they need to be their own savior. They do not believe the promises of God.

By faith we believe in the covenant God made with Noah:

Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

The only one that is going to destroy the earth is when the Lord Himself wraps everything up like a scroll in the end times.

A while back, all of a sudden a great comet appeared in the sky. It was called the Hale Bopp Comet. It could be seen by the naked eye in 1997. Truth is, most of us never heard about it till we saw it in the sky. The reason for that was that the professional astronomers did not discover it. So they did not know whether it would fizzle out.

Hale-Bopp was discovered on July 23, 1995, separately by Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp prior to it becoming naked-eye visible on Earth. Although predicting the maximum apparent brightness of new comets with any degree of certainty is difficult, Hale-Bopp met or exceeded most predictions when it passed perihelion on April 1, 1997. It was visible to the naked eye for a record 18 months, twice as long as the previous record holder, the Great Comet of 1811. Accordingly, Hale-Bopp was dubbed the Great Comet of 1997.

The question is, what would prevent such a comet from hitting the world?

I think this is what drives the unbelieving world crazy. They cannot admit they are not in control of the environment like they think they are. What fools they are.

1. We must be custodians of nature. Nature is not our god. God said so.

Paranoia of the Environmentalist:

Saddam Hussein promised to unleash hell on the earth if US invaded Iraq.

During that time the media and experts were saying the following:

"Nobody has ever been exposed to something like this before."

"Atmospheric pollution on this scale has not occurred in our history. We need to be aggressive in our pursuit of data so that we have a better idea of the long-term effects of the toxics overwhelming the air, land, and water of the gulf region. Some of these pollutants may turn out to be carcinogenic. For our troops we could have another agent orange.

Headlines across the country warned: 'War in the Gulf, an Environmental Perspective,' 'Wars and Environmental Implications Go Beyond a Simple Desert Storm,' 'Targeting the Environment: A Casualty No One is Counting--The Earth,' 'Vital Saudi Water Plant Prepares for Oil Slick,' 'Environmental Disaster Feared in Persian Gulf,' 'The Hidden Casualties: The Environmental Consequences of the Gulf Conflict,' 'Experts Warn of Global Fallout from Warfare.' 'Damage of Oil Across the Globe.' 'Saddam Hussein Could Respond to Attack by Unleashing a Massive Oil Spill in Gulf,' and well he did. 'Waging War on the Earth.'

The cessation of reporting on the oil-slick and its consequences was almost as sudden as the events which led to its creation. Whilst news reporters disappeared from the Gulf just as precipitously as they had arrived.

CNN did a special report.

But seven years after the war, the coral reefs seemed healthy and shrimp catch levels were restored to numbers seen before the war.

Genesis 8:21 I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Here we have an example of the fact.. that we give mankind too much credit. I personally believe that men could not destroy this planet even if they wanted to. Saddam Hussein is an example of this. Mankind gives themselves too much credit.

III. OUR FAITH PRODUCES TRUE WORKS. THE ONLY THING WE CAN HAVE OR DO TO PLEASE HIM.

The essence of Humanism is to operate in the realm of doubt. It is for this reason the world is in moral chaos. Faith is the most powerful fuel of the believer. It is what saves us and sustains us.

So many think that God requires us doing this and that. Works. But our works that are not built on faith are worthless.

Proverbs 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

What is God looking for from us?

IT IS OUR FAITH. FAITH PRODUCES A TRUE WORK WROUGHT OF GOD!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

True faith will produce spiritual fruit and godly works.

When we read down through Heb 11 we read that through faith:

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Heb. 11:4 Abel offered a better sacrifice.

Heb. 11:7 Noah built an ark.

Heb. 11:8 Abraham left his country, offered up Isaac, etc..

Heb. 11:23 Moses brought out the children of Israel from Egypt.

Heb. 11:30 Joshua brought down the walls of Jericho.

Biblical faith produces good works. It is the test as to whether our faith is genuine.

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

It is like this, good fuel will power an engine. Faith is what fuels good works.

IV. THROUGH FAITH WE WILL RECEIVE REWARDS FROM GOD.

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

What will be the reward of faith.

Salvation..

Eternal life.

And also the ability to please God.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

How can we please God through our own feeble works or efforts? The only thing that pleases God is faith.

Faith is our instructions for spiritual success.

We are in the dark as to how to please God.
We are in the dark as to how to live for God.
We are in the dark as to how to serve God without faith!

Faith shines light on all these doubts and give us:

Direction.
Confidence.
Hope.
Purpose.

INVITATION AND APPLICATION:

HOW DO WE GET FAITH? We get it by hearing the word of God!

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Faith is the by product of believing the Word of God. God says it, we believe it: THIS IS FAITH.

We need to walk by faith: We do this by stepping out in faith after hearing the Word of God. Discovering what we need to do.

We need to live by faith: This is trusting God for our daily necessities and not fretting and worrying about them.

We need to grow in faith: This happens as we read the Word of God, meditate on the Word of God, and get challenged by the preaching of the Word of God.