



OUR DESTINY IS IN THE SEED

Stephen Smith, 6 November 2011

The centrality and supremacy of pure Christology. The person and work of Jesus Christ must always be our focus and emphasis.

The race of faith - from faith to faith

The subject of faith from a Christ-centered view includes two major kingdom paradigms.

First: Real faith is not our faith, but rather “the faith of God”.

What if some did not believe and were without faith? Does their lack of faith and their faithlessness nullify and make ineffective and void the faithfulness of God and His fidelity [to His Word]?

Romans 3:3 (AMP)

Second: As with salvation, that is progressive, so real faith gradually moves us from faith to faith.

For in the Gospel a righteousness which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed through the way of faith that arouses to more faith]. As it is written, the man who through faith is just and upright shall live and shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17 (AMP)

Definition of faith:

- It is transliterated to the English word – Amen.
- In the KJV Pistis (Greek) is translated as: Assurance, believe, faith, fidelity.

The Bible defines faith as follows:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

The ‘race of faith’ that we have been called to run is all about His faith and not ours.

To understand this truth, we must understand the essential differences between foundational faith and finished faith.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17 (KJV)

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.

Hebrews 6:1 (KJV)

The phrase “faith toward God” is literally faith ‘upon’ God.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)

Foundational faith

Five principles that constitutes the faith message:

1. We are justified by faith.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 (KJV)

2. Our hearts are circumcised in water baptism by faith.

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are raised with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:11-12 (KJV)

3. We receive the Pentecostal experience of the Holy Ghost baptism by faith.

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

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

Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:1-3 (KJV)

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Galatians 3:3 (NIV)

Have ye suffered so many things in vain? If it be yet in vain.

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 3:4-5 (KJV)

4. We receive divine healing for our physical bodies by faith.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:24 (KJV)

5. We receive financial blessings by faith.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV)

This constitutes the "faith message" as we know it.

Our faith begins in Hebrews 11 but it does not end there.

For by it (Faith) the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:2 (KJV)

These all died in faith, not having received the promises...

Hebrews 11:13 (KJV)

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

God having provided some better thing for us that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:39-40 (KJV)

We learn two more things in Hebrews about elementary or first principles of faith.

1. We can die in foundational faith.
2. With foundational faith only, we can die without the promise.

- **God brought us out of Egypt to bring us into the land. (Deut 6:23)**

We have been purchased and purposed. There is a purpose, a predestined goal that lies before us.

- **That eternal purpose is realized / manifested in finishing faith.**

Many have experienced foundational faith who may never hear the truth about finishing faith.

No one can experience finishing faith without first experiencing the basics of foundational faith. We have to keep on running from faith to faith.

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:8 (KJV)

Finishing faith

I am (have been) crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

- **Though it (faith) began in Hebrews 11, “our faith” is found in Hebrews 12.**

Where Jesus is the “Author” (Chief Leader, Prince) and the “Finisher” (Completer, Consummator, Perfector) of our faith. It is Jesus Himself who develops and matures His own faith in our hearts.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Romans 3:27 (KJV)

Finishing faith is the faith of God Himself, operating and manifesting itself in and through a corporate man.

Finishing faith is Jesus’ faith, the faith of the Son of God.

Unlike the limitedness of foundational faith, Jesus’ faith conquers death and obtained the promise.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (KJV)

- Foundational faith is about us.
- Finishing faith is all about others.
- The faith of God is for the nations and will ultimately deliver His creation.

Finishing faith, the faith of the Son of God is “The Faith of God”. This is God’s Faith in Himself built into and expressed through us, his corporate man, and His glorious church!

How does finishing faith work?

Finishing faith = Jesus’ faith

Finishing faith = the faith of the Son of God

Finishing faith = God kind of faith

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:1, 5, 6 (NASB)

Finishing faith is we punishing disobedience!

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 (NASB)

- Dominion through finishing faith comes by obedience!
- Destiny and purpose through finishing faith comes by obedience.

Definition of obedience: *Willing subjection to that which is from the sphere of divine revelation and is right.*

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7-8 (KJV)

But thank God, though you were once slaves of sin, you have become obedient with all your heart to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed and to which you were committed.

Romans 6:17-18 (AMP)

Finishing faith is to rely totally on God and not on yourself!

With this in view we constantly pray for you, that our God may deem and count you worthy of [your] calling and [His] every gracious purpose of goodness, and with power may complete in [your] every particular work of faith (faith which is that leaning of the whole human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness).

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (AMP)

Finishing faith operates from rest.

THEREFORE, WHILE the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it.

For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them]; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it; neither were they united in faith with the ones [Joshua and Caleb] who heard (did believe).

For we who have believed (FAITH) (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe (FAITH)] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest; and this He said although [His] works had been completed and prepared [and waiting for all who would believe (FAITH)] from the foundation of the world. (Psalms 95:11.)

For in a certain place He has said this about the seventh day: And God rested on the seventh day from all His works. (Genesis 2:2.)

Hebrews 4:1-4 (AMP)

Now that we know whose faith is at work here it is time to understand it is all about His will, and plan, and purpose for each of our lives.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.

Ephesians 1:11 (NIV)