

Faith

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I. Introduction.

A. We are to love one another...(1 Timothy 1:5, 1 John 4:11-12)

1. Because God is love. We are partakers of the divine nature and cannot help but love because God is love.

2. Because God sent His Son.

3. Because if we love one another, God's love is perfected in us.

B. We are to love out of a good conscience towards God and man. (Acts 24:16)

C. We are to have a sincere and genuine faith.

II. A sincere faith.

A. Faith is important because it receives grace. (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 1:17)

B. We are not to follow in manner or method but imitate in faith.

C. What is faith?

1. It is an inner assurance that counts on God and obeys Him.

2. It rests on the objective fact of God and His character—primarily that He is reliable.

3. It also rests on the subjective experience of obeying God. (John 7:17)

4. One obeys his way to faith.

5. Faith is both passive and active. It rests on God's character and it also obeys Him. (Romans 1:5, Hebrews 11)

D. Faith must be tested. (1 Peter 1:11)

1. Sincere faith is very important to God.

2. Sincere faith is important to us because it produces steadfastness—stable, consistent character.

3. The ultimate cause of all spiritual depression is unbelief.

4. Abraham's faith grew by the very act of trusting and obeying Him.

5. The greatest test of faith is to trust God for people. (Psalm 37:3)

E. Faith is a lifetime thing.

F. Faith is a painful thing.

1. Faith stays us when all other things are stripped away—we come down to God Himself.

2. Yet faith in God is a blessed experience and is worth it all.

G. Faith develops us into mature people. (Hebrews 12:27)

H. As with Abraham faith will bring us honor from the Father.

Application questions

1. What is faith according to the speaker? Why is it so important?

2. Why is it necessary that faith must be tested? How do you explain pain in the Christian life in part through this?

3. Is your faith demonstrated through obedience? What things do you need to surrender to the Lord in order to grow in your fellowship with Him?
