

THE MISSION TRIAL
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Number 2465

. . . Greetings once again to all the saints and my friends who are in tune with The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma. We are very happy to be back with you again at this time. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have written in and expressed their interest in the messages from time to time. We still have a number of each of the messages in typewritten form. So it is not too late to obtain a copy if you will write in and let us know which one you desire to have. There is no charge for these, but we send them out free upon your request. Then, too, we do thank all of those who have helped to share the cost of this work of faith. May God bless you each one richly.

Now, let us turn to I Corinthians, chapter 13 and read a part of verse 13. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;"

I have been considering this text and have decided to use this one verse for the next three broadcasts. I want to take these three things: faith, hope, and charity and break them apart and examine each one of them carefully, and then in the third week, when we have the message upon charity, put them back together again and see the completeness of these fundamental virtues!

So, now, for our first message of the three graces, we shall concern ourselves primarily at this time with the subject of faith. This is the first step toward God and an indispensable one. First let us consider what it is. In Hebrews, 11th chapter and verse one, we read:

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

This is the best definition I know. However, in Webster's Dictionary we find that faith is defined as: allegiance to duty or a person; belief and trust in and loyalty to God; firm belief in something for which there is no proof. So we see then that faith is accepting that which cannot be proved by natural reasoning. Let me be quick to add that even though certain things cannot be proved by human reasoning, neither can their existence be disproved by the same method. This is why so many today are unwilling to accept anything which they cannot fully understand by the standards of human reasoning.

The old proverb which says to: "Believe nothing you hear and only half of what you see," is all too often used as a yardstick in this modern age of scientific learning, and ever-increasing knowledge. But I am here to tell you that what we need is a return to the fundamental teaching of the holy scriptures and a firm belief in the existence of the eternal things as recorded in their holy pages.

Do you know why more people are not pleasing God? Let me show you in Hebrews 11, and verse 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

It does not say it is necessary for you to prove that God does exist and to prove that he created the world and all things in it, for the so-called smart men of all ages have been endeavoring to prove or disprove this, and they are still uncertain as to the proof of many things that exist today.

But it does say that you must "believe" that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Real, living, and active faith in God will bring about results and cause one to have peace of mind and heart while others are trying to delve into the deep and hidden secrets of God which they will never be able to prove by human understanding, regardless of how much learning and knowledge they gain. Look at I Corinthians 1 and verse 18:

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

Then look again beginning at verse 22: "For the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom."

If we were able to see and know all of the wisdom and understanding of God, it would no longer be faith. But faith is accepting the word of God and acting upon it as such.

When Christ was resurrected and appeared to his disciples, Thomas said, "Except I shall see in his hands the prints of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." John 20:25.

Now, Thomas was one of those who had to be shown, but look what Jesus said to him in John 20, beginning at verse 27: "Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

Give attention to the reply which Thomas made in verse 28: "My Lord and my God." And finally, the outstanding blessing which Jesus handed down to all of us in verse 29: "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Now, no doubt, many of you have heard the old proverb: "Seeing is believing." Yes, this may be true, but seeing is not faith, for a real living and active faith goes far beyond that which meets the natural eye and takes in all the promises of God!

Here Jesus himself said: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Some may say that sounds good, but how do I get this faith? Here again we find the answer in Romans 10 and verse 17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

This message right now is your invitation to have faith in God. Faith will bring real deliverance from sin and evil habits of life; it will give you peace of mind and heart; it will entitle you to the promises in the scriptures and to use them for your salvation; it will help you to please

God and to live peaceably with all men; and finally, it is the only means by which we may gain the eternal reward at the end of life. For Paul said: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." II Timothy 4:7-8.

Now, we have for you a song, LIVING BY FAITH, and I hope you will enjoy it, and may it serve to strengthen your faith in God.

The song LIVING BY FAITH.

Now, let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father and the giver of all good things,

We come to thee at this time in behalf of all who are in tune with The Mission Trail. We pray that you will inspire and give faith in thy word and power to save from sin. Remember with a special blessing from thy hand those who have written and mentioned their need. And, keep through faith all of those who trust in thee, for we ask it in the name of Christ our Savior.

Amen

Now, here is Frances with a few words from the Letter Exchange.

From Missouri: Greetings in Jesus dear name. We heard you last night ...So I wanted to let you know for when we do not hear the gospel very often it sure will be a blessing. I wish I could send something to help, an offering to help but can't as don't have money to send. I am praying for all... I'd love to have copy of sermon. Thanks so much...

Thank you, Frances, for we like to get letters from those who hear the broadcast wherever they may be.

May I again mention, if you would like to write to us, simply address The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma, and if you want a copy of this message, ask for number 2465. It is free of charge to those who request it.

Don't fail to hear the message next Friday on the subject of Hope.

Now, this is Willie Murphey and Frances, speaking in behalf of The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma and saying, may God bless you. Goodnight!