

True Faith versus Pinhead Faith

The world speaks of faith so lightly. When we speak of our faith, especially our Christian faith in God you would think that our minds are but filled with frivolous and fanciful thinking. When we speak of creation, of accepting the history of God in creation from Genesis you would think that we were given to holding to some creation mythology.

Yet that same world speaks of their faith quite often. They will tell you that you have to have faith in your fellow man. With Frank Sinatra they will sing of having faith wherein they believe that for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows. Today I want to speak on "true faith" as compared with the "foolish faith" that is so common amongst men. Men will put their trust in "four leaf clovers", a horse shoe or a pinch of salt and then scoff at those who express their faith in God and trust in God with a full confidence and hope of eternal salvation. And what I want us to consider this morning is that even though they may speak of the true faith of the Christian as being foolish and frivolous God speaks of the believer's faith as being foundational, sound and a means of security.

Here is what God, speaking in His written word, has to say about our faith and confidence in Him. *Heb 11:1-6* *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

A. Faith as substance and evidence - *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

1. The word translated here as substance is from the Greek word "hupostasis".
 - a. Hupo - that which is under, that which is foundational
 - b. Stasis which has the meaning of being, of substance
 - c. Thus it speaks of that which has foundation and substance, as having real being, existence
2. The word for evidence comes from the Greek word "elegchos" meaning proof by which something is proven to be true
 - a. The Christian faith then is a faith that provides absolute conviction that what is spoken is true.
 - b. To be convinced of the truthfulness of all that is written in God's word.
3. Yet we are not speaking of having faith in faith
 - a. We are not saying we believe something therefore it is true.
 - b. Those who believe in false gods truly believe, but their faith is without foundation, it is without evidence.
4. The faith that we as Christians have is not a self made faith, it is a faith that has been given us from God.
 - a. Our very faith is a gift from God.

*Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, **and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.***

b. This is what makes the "Christian" faith different from all other faiths.

5. Our faith comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (cf. Rom. 10:17)
 - a. Therefore it is a faith based upon revelation.
 - b. Revelation that comes from God and is about God who has revealed Himself to us

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine,

c. It is a revelation that is foundational because it is based upon fact not fiction

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

d. It is revelation which our Lord Himself spoke of as being factual.

(1) He used Scripture in the sense of authority

Matt 22:31-33 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

(2) He used Scripture in the sense of it being factual in its smallest detail

*Luke 16:16-17 "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away **than for one tittle of the law to fail.**"*

B. This applies then to things that are past and things that are future

1. History as given us in Holy Scripture is to be received as proven history
2. Creation as recorded in Genesis chapter One therefore is not based upon myth or poetic musing but upon fact.
 - a. I am using creation itself as evidence to point out the difference between "true faith" and what I have named "pinhead faith".
 - b. The design seen in the whole of creation points to an All powerful, All wise, Self-sufficient and eternal Being who designed and spoke all things into existence.

*Heb 11:3 By faith **we understand** that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that **the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.***

(1) We understand - it is based upon sound evidence

Ps 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

(2) Our faith then is based upon fact and therefore it is both the substance and evidence of things unseen.

c. On the other hand the science prevalent in the world today has come up with an unproven and an unprovable faith of how all things came into being.

- (1) For they believe that something the size of a "pinhead" contained all the energy necessary to make up all the billions upon billions of stars, planets and all things existing.
- (2) They believe that all creation came from absolute nothing, which is an impossibility, because something cannot come from nothing.
- (3) It is not scientific because $0 + 0 = 0$
- (4) Or that little pinhead is in and of itself eternal
- (5) Then they too speak of an eternal something and therefore cannot fault us if we believe in an Eternal Being.
- (6) The difference is that their eternal "it", that is, their eternal "pinhead" is both mindless and powerless.
- (7) Therefore which is based upon "true faith" and which is based upon "pinhead faith."

d. Such faith, as we see in the world today, can only be compared to the idolaters throughout history

Ps 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them.

C. Evidence of things that are future.

1. Since nothing found in the history of God in history can be proven to be false.
2. Since the whole of Scripture gives evidence of its truthfulness.
3. Since prophecies concerning nations and events have come to pass as foretold.
4. Since all which was foretold of the Christ in the Old Testament were fulfilled in Jesus our Lord.
5. There is absolutely no reason to doubt of the promise concerning that which is yet future.

Conclusion: Therefore we have this firm confidence because "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

Therefore we as Christians can say - And **we know** that all things work together for good.

With Paul we can be "**confident** of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; (Phil 1:6)