

## **Trusting God With Our Lives – New Testament Perspective**

Scripture: Romans 10:9 – 11 & James 2:18 – 22

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Greek word ‘pistis’ is found in the New Testament is translated ‘faith’. The New Testament does have a word in it for faith, not like the Old Testament which does not have a Hebrew word for ‘faith’ in it. The word ‘faith’ is used in the New Testament to carry the idea that one who exhibits faith in some person or thing was acting on their confidence and firm conviction. This usage of the word ‘faith’ in the New Testament indicated one’s own trustworthiness where as the word closest to ‘faith’ in the Old Testament indicated one’s own faithfulness. I know there seems to be very little difference here, but there is a difference. Old Testament – no Hebrew word for ‘faith’; New Testament – the word ‘pistis’ which is the Greek word for ‘faith’.

Jesus seemed to view faith as a way of healing since repeatedly people were healed by Jesus through some miracle because of their faith in God. This is a very important point – many people were healed by Jesus by their faith in him and God. Some examples of these miracles:

The woman who was a sinner washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and Jesus told her – ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace’ Here it was, the woman’s behavior convinced Jesus she had faith and her faith caused her sins to be forgiven.

The woman who had been bleeding for 12 years came to Jesus and touched the hem of his clothes. She thought if she could only touch his robe, she would be healed. Jesus turned towards her and said – ‘Be encouraged daughter. Your faith has healed you.’ And she was healed from that time on. Her faith in Jesus healed her.

A blinded beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road. When he heard Jesus’ voice he began to shout – ‘Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!’ Many around Jesus scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet but the blind man shouted louder – ‘Son of David, show

mercy on me!’ Jesus stopped and called him forward and asked the blind man what he wanted. He said – ‘Teacher, I want to see.’ Jesus said – ‘Go, your faith has healed you!’ And at once he was able to see and he began to follow Jesus. His faith had healed him and now he can see!

And finally, ten men with skin diseases approached Jesus. They kept their distance from Jesus and raised their voices saying – ‘Jesus, Master, show mercy on us.’ Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests and as they did they were healed of their skin diseases. They were cleansed. One of them fell on his knees at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. Jesus replied – ‘Get up and go. Your faith has healed you!’

Faith can heal. Jesus preformed many miracles but many of them were because the person being healed had faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

The Apostle Paul talked about faith in his writings. Paul meant that we should have faith in or on Jesus and God. Listen again to Paul’s wonderful words from Romans 10:9 – 11

*Because if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says – ‘All who have faith in Him will not be put to shame’.*

It is easy to see in this passage that if we confess with our mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and in our heart we have faith that God raised Jesus from the dead, we will be saved. And trusting with our heart lead to righteousness and confessing with our mouth leads to salvation. If we do all this, we will not be put to shame!

The Old Testament reflects a culture that believed one’s behavior indicated how the person felt and thought. It says in the Old Testament – ‘Show me a person who obeys God and will show you someone who believes and trusts in God.’ But the Apostle Paul puts more emphasis on the concept of faith. Paul would say – ‘Show me a person who has faith in God through Jesus Christ and I will show you someone who does his

or her best to keep God's law.' It is the same truth looked at from two different perspectives – Old Testament and New Testament.

Perhaps a better biblical understanding of faith is most clearly found in James 2:18 – 22

*Someone might claim – 'You have faith and I have action.' But how can we see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I will show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. It is good that you believe that God is one. Ha! Even the demons believe this and they tremble with fear. Are you so slow? Do you need to be shown that faith without actions has no value at all? What about Abraham, our father? Was not he shown to be righteous through his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? See, his faith was at work along with his actions. In fact, his faith was made complete by his faithful actions.*

We need to have the kind of faith in God that will give us courage to trust in the Lord and do good. We need to develop this kind of faith the same way the people did in scripture. We need to allow God to test us and we need to trust God. Let me repeat that - We need to allow God to test us and we need to trust God. And every time we obey God, we will find God is faithful to us. God's Laws work and our experiences prove them. Each step we take with God builds our faith, so let start stepping out in faith and let us build our faith!

To close this message, let us look at the words in the song 'Trust and Obey'. I love this song and its words – *When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word. What a glory he sheds on our way. While we do his good will, he abides with us still and with all who will trust and obey.*

Faith leads to obedience and obedience leads to greater faith.

Let us now sing # 556 – Trust and Obey – to conclude this message.