

5 August 2018

Faith – Pt 4 a child of God has faith in God's words

This is our fourth study on the topic of faith. In our previous teaching we established that (1) Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness, (2) the Lord Jesus had perfect faith, and (3) when a lost person believes the gospel of Christ they are justified before God by the faith of Christ, and imputed with His righteousness. In this our third study we establish – that a person is a child of God in every age by faith in His words.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. During the age prior to the law – a child of God had faith in God's words.

a) Noah built an ark

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb.11: 7).

b) Abraham when he was called by God went out, and by faith he offered up Isaac

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out” Heb 11:8, c.f. – Heb.11: 17 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son”.

2. During the age of law – those of Israel who fell in the wilderness had NO faith.

“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Heb.3: 19). See also Heb.4: 6 & 11

3. During the age of the kingdom – a child of God was, and will be by faith

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God” (Mark 11: 22). c.f. – Lk.22: 32 – “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not”.

4. During this, the church age we are children of God by faith.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal.3: 26).

Remembering that in this age – our belief in the good news of the cross saves us, but as we established last week – it is the faith of Christ that keeps us saved, and justifies us before God.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

I remember back some years ago when I would have established from the scriptures that in the age of the law a man was a child of God by faith plus works. And then a caring brother, with much grace in his heart, and even more charity showed me that the works were the result of his faith.

Question to think about.

What is the common denominator between religious cults, between heretics of today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

They either –

i) take God's message for another age and obey it in this age (kingdom gospel believers), and therefore do not rightly divide the word of God (2Tim.2: 15), or

ii) add works to faith, and works can never contribute to saving a man.

In each age that was, is now, and is to come – pleasing God will only be by faith – by believing His message for that age. Today that message is the gospel of Christ crucified that the risen Lord gave to the apostle Paul. And the result of belief “in thine heart” (Rom.10: 9) is **obedience** to God –

i) by faith Noah obeyed God and built an ark, and

ii) by faith Abraham obeyed God and went out, and by faith he offered up his son Isaac.

Let us remember that a person is a child of God in every age by faith in God's words. Amen!