

19 August 2018

Faith – Pt 6 God tries our faith – have it before God.

This is our sixth and final study on the topic of faith. In our previous teaching we established (1) our faith comes from hearing the word of God, and (2) God gives every man a measure of faith depending on their function in the body, and (3) our faith produces works. In this study we establish that (1) God tries our faith, (2) Some are weak, (3) others are strong, and (4) have thy faith to thyself before God.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God tries our faith.

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (Jam.1: 3).

Even though God gives us a measure of faith, He still tries our faith, not for Himself, but that **we** would know of our faith in Him.

2. Some are weak in faith.

“Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations” (Rom.14: 1).

The weaker brethren might say – “I can only eat herbs, or I must worship on the Sabbath.”

3. Others are strong in faith.

“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God” (Rom.4: 20).

4. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin” (Rom.14: 23).

What ever we do not fully trust in God Almighty we sin. Is it any wonder that the scriptures say – If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1Jn.1: 10).

When God tries our faith we may be found to be weak or strong, but none of us will have perfect faith.

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

As per the example in Rom.14: 2 there are weak Christians that believe they should only eat herbs, and today there are brethren who believe they sin if they watch TV, or smoke cigarettes.

Question to think about.

If there is something that is doubtful – like watching TV, or eating herbs should those who are strong in the faith teach the weaker brethren not to do these things?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

NO! If our brother believes that they should eat herbs – let them, and take their faith into account such that we do not offend them, or cause them to sin, or stumble. If they believe it is unclean to eat meat then do as Paul suggested in Rom.14: 21 – “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” Even though – “But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse” (1Cor.8: 8). And so we say – “Hast thou faith? have it to thy self before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth” (Rom.14: 22).

Let us remember that God will try our faith, so we will know if our faith is weak or strong. But be not highminded but rather have your faith before God, lest you condemn yourself in that thing which you allow. And remember that whatsoever is not of faith is sin.