

Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.11.17

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Sermon recordings

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Speaker-AM: Tyler Glidden

Title: Eyes of the Lord

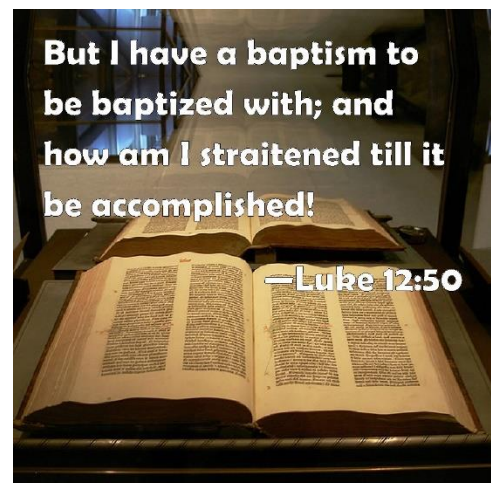
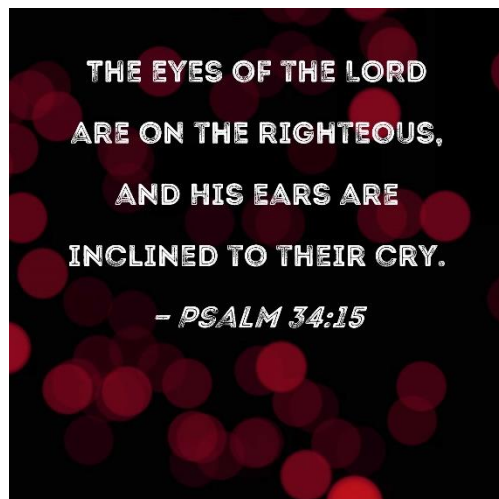
Recording:



Speaker-PM: Jamie Rinehart

Title: Devoted Dread

Recording:



What is Faith? 11/17/2024 By Robbie Moreland

Is it an emotion?

No, faith is not the same as emotions. Emotions are not trustworthy. "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered" (Proverbs 28:26).

Where does faith come from?

Faith comes from knowing God's teachings. "So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Therefore, faith increases as you learn more about God. The miracles in the Bible give evidence to help establish belief. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31). Notice that we don't need tons of evidence. John selected a set that was sufficient to prove the point.

So, what is faith?

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1) Faith is the demonstration of our conviction that we trust the reality of what we cannot see. That is not the same as saying there is no evidence. Trusting the reality of what we cannot see means only that our faith is not dependent on first-hand material observation. I accept historical testimony without having to see firsthand what happened in history. People accept evidence all the time without actually seeing it firsthand for themselves. This is nothing new. Here, we are simply recognizing that faith is about trust and conviction, and it requires that we demonstrate it through our actions. To say that we have faith is to say that we will trust God and act upon this conviction. This is the faith that pleases God.

Is faith enough to save?

In James 2:24, James says that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. So, faith is the foundation, and from there should come obedience, righteous living, and good works!

How do we grow our faith?

The Word of God! Scriptures teach us that the Bible is food for Christians. Just as a newborn baby requires nourishing milk for growth and good development, so also a baby Christian requires spiritual food for growth. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3). Milk is used in the New Testament as a symbol of what is basic to the Christian life. But as a baby grows, its diet changes to include solid food. Read how the Hebrews writer admonished the Christians: "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Paul saw the same problem with the Corinthians. They had not grown in their faith, and he could only give them "milk" instead of solid food (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). Peter wrote that God has given us everything we need for life through our (growing) knowledge of Him.

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 where Peter lists qualities that need to be added to our beginning of faith in order for us to mature.