**“JUST THE BIBLE BASICS ABOUT FAITH”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

 1) Romans 1:16-17…

 -a. Paul sets forth the “power of God unto salvation”, the gospel

 -b. it is the inspired word that sets before the world “the means of salvation”

 -c. presented unto all, and then “invites those interested in eternal life to respond”

 Acts 10:34-35

 An illustration I have often used was wherein as cashiers at banks are “taught” to

 recognize “true bills” ***verses*** “counterfeited bills”

 -a. as there are 20 different ways to fake a $20 bill

 -b. and future time *will only bring even more ways*

 -c. they are taught what the “true bill” looks like

 -1. color

 -2. identifying traits

 -3. placement of certain markings

 -d. therefore, when they have “studied fully” what the true is,

 anything else will manifest itself clearly, again, ***by those who are studied.***

 2) The subject of “FAITH” has “so many different meanings” in the religious world

 -a. where it comes from

 -b. how it relates to our salvation/faith’s part in God’s plan

3) So without having to “study” what all the “differing doctrinal beliefs” in the

 Religious world sets forth,

 Let us study what the truth sets forth

THOUGHTS:

**(I) “FAITH COME FROM HEARING/STUDING THE WORD OF GOD”**

 1. Romans 10:12-17

 -a. the questions come

 “how can people call on God If they have never believed? – vs. 14

 “how can they believe IF they have never heard any teaching? – vs. 14

 “how can they hear without a preacher/teacher? – vs. 14

 -b. the concluding thought set forth that **“faith comes thru the word of God”** –vs. 17

 -1-. The word “must be taught” BEFORE there can be faith!!!

 -2-. There is NO FAITH without the word FIRST being taught

 -3-. Faith is a “response to the word being taught”

 2. from the “religious world” off the internet we read statements such as:

 -a. “*Yes God gives faith. You were gifted with faith before you had any idea that the word*

 *existed. Just as you were gifted with life and breath; without any achievement on your part.”*

 -b. “*Faith is truly a gift from God. This gift is only revealed unto*

 *God’s chosen ones in their appointed times. It is God’s gift to you”*

 -c. ***Is Our Faith From Us or From God?*** *“It should be obvious at this point to realize that our faith in Christ must be initiated*

 *by God Himself. Apart from God, saving faith is not possible in fallen man…”*

 SO WE ARE SUPOSE TO JUST WAIT FOR GOD TO SOMEDAY GIVE US FAITH, ***IF HE CHOOSES TO ???***

 3. What we need to understand is that faith IS our response to accepting what

 the gospel instructs concerning our salvation, and following steadfastly.

 -a. whether it is thru that which is written – John 20:30-31

 -b. whether it is thru that which is spoken - John 17:20-21

 4. Although various beliefs exist as to “how we attain faith in God”,

 It needs to be clear that thru the word heard, examined, studied, obeyed

 is faith achieved.

 -a. Peter was defending his going and teaching the Gentiles – Acts 15:7

 -b. and that is what as well Paul taught – Rom.10:8.. “word of faith”

 5. In the parable of the sower. - Luke 8:4-15

 -a. seed fell beside the road, and because the soil was hardened, it did not sprout,

 rather the birds came and ate it – vs.5

 -b. in explaining this, Christ states in verse 12…

 “devil takes away the word from their heart, so that

 they will not believe and be saved…”

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**(II) “FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD”**

 1. James 2:14-16…

 -a. although some would teach that “just believing” is enough to save you eternally,

 the scriptures say otherwise..

 John 12:42.. *“..many of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees,*

 *they were not confessing lest they would be put out of the synagogue”*

 2. The ability to “believe Jesus is the savior” and then do nothing about it does exist.

 -a. there are those today who probably believe Jesus is the savior/God’s only Son

 -b. but they chose NOT to in any way further acknowledge His position of “authority

 -c. Hebrews 4:2….they heard the word

 it was not acted upon

 3. True “FAITH” requires us to DO SOMETHING

 -a. “belief” standing ALONE will not achieve salvation WHY **ITS DEAD**

 -b. James 2:14

 -c. Saving faith is that which belief that RESPONDS to the inspired word,

 -1-. Not just accepting that God has spoken

 Jesus came as the savior

 -2-. But then realizes His authority and “acts accordingly”

 -d. James uses Abraham as an example-James 2:21-24

 4. Gal.5:6 is the formula that brings about our salvation from God

 -a. faith

 -b. working

 -c. thru love

 5. Those used as “examples” before us are shown by their “faith working”

 -a. Heb.11:4 - Abel offered

 -b. Heb. 11:7 - Noah prepared an ark

 -c. Heb.11:8- Abraham obeyed by going out unto another land

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**(III) “FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN”**

 1. Hebrews 11:1..

 -a. some translations state

 *“faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen…”*

 -1-. For “those of old” that were given great promises, and trusted God to fulfill

 -2-. Heb.11:2 – these individuals “gained approval” from God

 -3-.based upon God **instructing them**,

 they “went out into other lands” – Heb.11:8

 “ obeyed contrary to what others thought” –Heb.11:7

 “ill-treated by others for their obedience” – Heb.11:25

 -b. “faith” tells us not just what God has done in times past,

 but what God shall bring to pass in the future.

 2. God, who cannot lie – Tit.1:2

 -a. thru the inspired word tells us… - II Tim.3:16

 -b. this world shall come to an end one day –

 -c. heaven is a real place wherein the saved shall live thru out eternity –

 -d. Satan, the deceiver of this world shall be defeated -

 3. Because of “OUR FAITH”, we KNOW ALL SHALL COME FORTH ONE DAY

 -a. although we can’t “SEE” with our physical eyes,

 -b. our “spiritual eye of faith” SEES ahead

 -1-. II Cor.5:7

 “for we walk by faith, and not by sight…”

 -2-. II Cor.4:18

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**(IV) “FAITH IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD”**

 1. I John 5:4…

 -a. as we seek to “walk by faith”..

 -1-. by the way we choose to plan our activities

 -2-. set aside what “so many are involved with” from day to day

 -3-. others wonder “why the change” – I Pet.4:3-4

 -b. “faith” motivates us to

 -1-. “strive to improve our character” – II Pet.1:5-8

 “for if these qualities are yours and increasing

 -2-. “be at worship” – Heb.10:25

 -3-. “seek to help those around us” – Gal.6:10

 2. Thru “faith”, we move FORWARD in life…

 -a. everyday challenges will come… trials thru home, jobs, relationships,

 -b. physical difficulties are going to come- sickness, accidents…and eventually old age

 -c. II Cor.4:17.

 *“for our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us*

 *more and more an exceeding weight of glory…”*

 II Cor.4:16.

 “wherefore we faint not, but though our outward man

 is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day…”

 3. READ I Peter 1:6-9

 “obtaining at the outcome of your faith,

 even the salvation of your soul”

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**CONCLUSION:**

 1. Christians ***walk*** by faith and ***live*** by faith

 “walk” for that which comes daily

 “live” for that which the future holds before us

 2. As our “faith grows”, we are better equipped to MOVE FORWARD

 OVERCOME

 3. Let us strive to have an “active faith”

 For as stated in Hebrews 11:2

 ***“for by it the men of old gained approval”***