

Finding the Abundant Life: **Part 3**

BY FAITH

Biblical Faith

- The importance of biblical faith.
 - Rom 5:1** – “having been justified by faith”
 - What does it mean to have been “justified?”
 - Justification is a declaration of righteousness.
 - God has declared us righteous through Jesus – which becomes ours by faith.
 - Eph 2:8,9** – “saved through faith”
 - Heb 11.6** – “without faith it is impossible to please God”
- What is biblical faith?
 - Rom 10:17** – “faith comes from ...”
 - Faith comes from hearing and hearing the words of Christ”

Biblical Faith

- What is biblical faith?
 - Rom 10:17** – “faith comes from ...”
 - Faith comes from hearing – literally with our ears.
 - Hearing what?
 - “the **word** of Christ”
 - “word” here is *ρημα (rhema)* – specific words or sayings; a declaration of one’s mind made in words.
 - that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, a thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence (**John 3:34**)
 - Faith then is directly related to the sayings of and about Jesus.
 - Where then do we find these sayings?
 - The Scriptures!

Biblical Faith

- What is biblical faith?
 - Eph 6:17** – “which is the word of God”
 - Our weapon is to be the sayings of and about Jesus.
- Are the sayings accurate?
 - Validation
 - How could one verify or validate the Truth claims of a religious text?
 - All religious texts, while describing how one gains access to “God” (or becomes God) also intersect two other disciplines: history and science.
 - Salvation: access to “God” (or becoming a god)
 - History: man in and through time
 - Science: insights into the creation

Biblical Faith

- Are the sayings accurate?
 - Validation

Salvation?
History!
Science!

 - One then could gain insight into the validity of the salvation message based on the accuracy of the historic and scientific statements.
 - Luke 3:1-2** – “the word (*rhema*) of God came to John”
 - If the historic and scientific claims are found to be in error, then one should questions the validity of the salvation message.

Biblical Faith

- Are the sayings accurate?
 - The Book of Mormon
 - History:
 - Nephites and Lamanites existed in the Americas from about 600 BC to AD 400. (no verification has ever been found)
 - The rise and fall of the Jaredite nation at the time of the Tower of Babel. (no verification has ever been found)
 - Science:
 - Donkey, bull, calf, cow, horse, ox, sheep, swine, goat, elephant, wheat, barley, silk, steel, bellows, brass, breast plates, iron, ore (mining), plows, chariots, etc...
 - These did not exist in the Americas during the claimed time
 - The historic and scientific claims are not valid, therefore the salvation message is not validated.

Biblical Faith

3. Are the sayings accurate?

- The Bible
 - History:
 - Eglon, Gath, Azekah, Libnah, Mareshah, Gezer, Taanach, Megiddo, Galilee, Shchem, Samaria, Beth Shemesh, Beth Shean, Mizpah, Jericho, Lachish, Hazor, etc...
 - Science (archaeology):
 - Gibeon pool, Hezekiah tunnel under Jerusalem, walls of Jericho, siege ramp of Sennacherib, pool of Siloam, Shechem temple, Nehemiah's wall, "Goliath" ostracon, etc...
 - Archaeology
 - The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable.

Biblical Faith

3. Are the sayings accurate?

- The Bible
 - Archaeology
 - Documents written on clay tablets from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine.
 - The name "Canaan" was in use in Ebla, a name critics once said was not used at that time and was used incorrectly in the early chapters of the Bible.
 - The word *tehom* ("the deep") in Genesis 1:2 was said to be a late word demonstrating the late writing of the creation story. "*Tehom*" was part of the vocabulary at Ebla, in use some 800 years before Moses.
 - The Hittites were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey.

Biblical Faith

3. Are the sayings accurate?

- But aren't there tons of errors in the Bible?
 - **2 Samuel 8:4** – "And David captured from him 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots."
 - **1 Chronicles 18:4** – "And David took from him 1,000 chariots and 7,000 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers, and David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots."
 - Is it 1,700 or 7,000 horsemen?
 - In **2 Sam**, the word *rekeb* was advertently omitted by a scribe.
 - It would thus read: "And David captured from him 1000,7000 horsemen" thus the number was reduced incorrectly to 1,700.
 - Using text criticism, the correct number is 7,000 horsemen.

Biblical Faith

3. Are the sayings accurate?

- "The real question at issue in regard to scribal error is whether an accumulation of minor slips has resulted in the obscuring or perversion of the message originally intended. Well-trained textual critics operating on the basis of sound methodology are able to rectify almost all the misunderstandings that might result from manuscript error. ... The question in regard to the text of the Bible centers on the data of textual criticism. Is there objective proof from the surviving manuscripts of Scripture that these sixty-six books have been transmitted to us with such a high degree of accuracy as to assure us that the information contained in the originals has been perfectly preserved? The answer is an unqualified yes." (Gleason L. Archer (fluent in Latin, Greek, French, German, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic; also studied in Syriac and Akkadian, and Egyptian) *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*.)

Biblical Faith

4. Modern views of scripture.

- The Modernist (Liberal) view
 - Typically rejects the idea that the Bible is divinely inspired in a unique way. Some go so far as to regard the Bible as purely a product of human invention.
 - Espoused by: Rudolf Bultmann and Walter Brueggemann
- The Neo-orthodox view
 - Summarized by saying that the Bible is "the word of God" but not "the words of God". It is only when one reads the text that it becomes the word of God to him or her.
 - The Bible contains demonstrable errors (in matters of history and science, at least) and therefore full inerrancy cannot be sustained with any kind of intellectual integrity.
 - Espoused by: Karl Barth and Emil Brunner

Biblical Faith

4. Modern views of scripture.

- The Orthodox view
 - The Bible as originally given by God was free from error.
 - Scripture was completely authoritative and trustworthy in all that it asserts as factual, whether in matters of theology, history, or science.
 - Espoused by: Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Earl Radmacher, Carl Henry, JI Packer, John Warwick Montgomery, James Montgomery Boise, Francis Schaeffer, Gleason Archer, Ray Stedman, RC Sproul, Norman Geisler, JP Moreland, etc....
- "I believe that the Bible is completely, entirely and verbally the word of God. I refuse to stand above and criticize it; I insist rather, on standing below it and letting it criticize me." (John Warwick Montgomery (who holds ten earned degrees in philosophy, theology, and law,) *Damned Through The Church*)

Biblical Faith

5. Active faith.

- **Heb 11:1** – assurance and conviction
 - Assurance: an appeal to our intellect and reason
 - **Acts 17:17,18** – “he was reasoning”
 - Using reasoning, logic, philosophy in the quest for Truth, the scriptures stand resolute!
 - Conviction: things I can’t confirm or even understand, but are reasonable and consistent demands on my will.
- **Matthew 4** – “it is written”
- **Hebrews 4:2** – “did not profit them”

Biblical Faith

Conclusion:

- Faith always stands on what we believe to be true.
- Biblical faith never acts apart from biblical Truth.
 - **2 Timothy 2:15** – “handling accurately the word (*logos*) of truth.”
 - **Eph 2:8,9** – “been saved through faith”
 - **Rom 5:1** – “justified by faith”

FAITH

TRUTH
(*rhema—logos*)