

Journey in Discipleship

Gospel Christianity: Beliefs

- What is the gospel?
- Who is God?
- What is wrong with us?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?

The importance of answering the question:

“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 6:14



Why Did Jesus Die?

The Problem of Boasting

What Is Faith?

What Difference in the World Does It Make?



The Problem of Boasting (“living by faith”)

Saving faith is not a mere act of receiving Christ...
...saving faith receives Jesus in order to keep on trusting him,
boasting in him, joyfully exulting in him

The Problem ...it's possible to “shrink back” from boasting in Christ

-To lose sight of Christ and become absorbed in my desires, dreams, fears, anxieties, hurts, losses, pleasure, comfort

-To lose confidence in the treasure of Christ's love, power, promises

And to functionally live your life getting glory apart from a Jesus based relationship with the God of all glory



What Is FAITH???

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

God is pleased when we boast or trust in two things about Him

God exists absolutely

God did not come into being...He is not becoming or changing...
He is the eternally pre-existent God who spoke all that we see
Into being...He is not dependent on His creation

11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command , so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

God is so full and completely self-sufficient that by nature
He overflows in self-giving love (Reward)



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- Self-giving love is the dynamic currency of the Tri-Personal Creator...the greatest joy of each person of the Trinity is not to seek admiration, but to give it freely to the other
- God creates you out of the overflow of His Eternal Community to enter the love and joy of who He is



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Let's create beings with the capacity to fully enjoy us. We're absolutely happy with ourselves...because of who we are and how we relate is incomparably wonderful. But so far, we've created no one who can share deeply in the unique joys of an intimate relationship with us where we hold nothing back. Let's create personal beings like us to whom we can reveal the very depths of our glorious nature. Larry Crabb

You were made from the overflow of God's self-giving love to delight in the beauty, wonder, greatness, goodness of God



What Is Faith?

Faith is all about God...not me

What pleases God is that our hearts & minds boast in

- God's being...His absolute, eternal reality
- God's beauty...His complete self-sufficiency that overflows

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see
Hebrews 11:1

Certain of what we do not see...

That there is an unseen Creator who exists absolutely and does not depend on us in the least

Being sure of what we hope for...

That this unseen Creator overflows in self-giving love



What Is Faith?

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. Hebrews 11:39-40

All of these examples of radical faith trusted in what they did not see...in promises unfulfilled

But in Christ, the unseen God becomes enfleshed among us.

In Christ's life & death you witness God's overflowing, bountiful, gracious nature as...

- **Jesus satisfies something in God**
- **Jesus changes something in you & me**

"I can see...in what you call the dark, but which to me is golden. I can see a God-made world, not a man-made world." Helen Keller



What Difference in the World Does Faith Make?

Living by faith is boasting in Jesus so that your living in this world displays the absolute reality of God and His overflowing nature

1. You welcome God to undo your comfortable life & to bring you to places where your only hope is trust in Him...
...where all self-boasting is inadequate & you must trust His overflowing nature to do all that he promises (11:7-8)
2. You welcome God to transform your treasures (11:24-27)

God, I welcome you to rearrange all that I consider precious so that Christ would become my greatest treasure and your glory would be known

3. You welcome God to show himself gracious & sufficient in the face of amazing odds or suffering for His sake (11:32-39)

