

FAITH ACCORDING TO HUCK FINN.

Romans 1:17.

August 20, 2006 Sunday P.M.

INTRODUCTION.

A. Webster's Online Dictionary defines faith as....

1. "Belief and trust inGod."
2. "Firm belief in something for which there is no proof."

B. Perhaps Huck Finn came up with the most challenging definition of faith when he said, "Faith is believing something you know ain't true."

C. Paul said all Christians should live by faith (Romans 1:17), but what is it?

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

A. First, faith is believing in a promise God has made even though we don't see it-Hebrews 11:1.

1. What does "hope" mean in this verse?

- a. The world's definition of hope is something we want to happen; something we wish would happen; but not something we know will happen.
- b. The Bible's definition of "hope" is something that God has promised will happen in our life.

2. What does "sure" mean in this verse? In the Greek language it means "a guarantee", something we can be certain we will have even though we do not now have it."

3. These two words, "hope" and "sure", taken together means our faith in God's promise to us has been guaranteed to happen.

4. Abraham held on to a promise God made to him-Romans 4:13.

5. Do you believe that God has given you a promise or promises you can hold on to? I believe he has given me some promises and I'm doing my best to hold on to them.

What are they?

Hebrews 13:5 "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

6. Share with us some of the promises you received from God that you are holding on to.

B. Second, faith is having a conviction that something is going to happen, even though it hasn't happened yet.

1. Its "seeing" in advance-Hebrews 11:1b.

2. Faith isn't presumption; its not walking on thin ice; its not going out on a limb; its not doing something crazy; its not even positive thinking.

3. Faith is trusting in a promise God has made to us which is guaranteed to happen because we believe it will.

C. Third, faith is obeying God even when we don't understand it.

1. Abraham obeyed God when he didn't understand-Hebrews 11:8.

2. Gay and I obeyed God when we moved to attend seminary in Fort Worth. Neither of us had a job, we bought a mobile home without having any visible way of paying for it, yet God gave both of us jobs within days of our arrival.

3. Share with us ways you have obeyed God without understanding it.

II. WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE ARE BETWEEN BELIEVING AND RECEIVING OR SEEING?

Lets see what Abraham did when he was in between receiving and seeing- Romans 4:17-21.

A. First, he remembered who God is-Romans 4:17 "...He (Abraham) is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed - the God who gives life to the dead (Abraham's body) and calls things that are not as though they were."

1. We can remember what the Bible says about God.

EL SHADDAI: "God Almighty "or "God All Sufficient.

JEHOVAH-JIREH: "The Lord will Provide."

JEHOVAH-ROPHE: "The Lord Who Heals".

JEHOVAH-NISSI: "The Lord Our Banner."

JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH: "The Lord Who Sanctifies".

JEHOVAH-SHALOM: "The Lord Our Peace".

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: "The Lord is There".

2. Another way to remember who God is involves remembering what He has done for us in the past. Can you remember His past blessings? Can you remember how He has met your needs in the past? Can you remember the promises God made to you that have already come to pass?
 - B. Second, Abraham refused to focus on his present circumstances-Romans 4:18-20. He refused to give up hope even though it seemed there was no hope.
 - C. Third, Abraham never gave up on God-Romans 4:21.

CONCLUSION.

- A. For Huck Finn, "Faith is believing something you know ain't true."
- B. For Christians, though, faith is believing in the promise God has made to us and refusing to let it go until we see it.