

## **BEING FULLY PERSUADED**

Pastor's Bible Hour – March 29, 2009  
Tabernacle of Praise – Pastor G. Richardson  
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2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

**2Ti 1:12** For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and **am persuaded** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

2Ti 1:14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

**2Ti 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things,....** The present imprisonment and bonds in which he now was; these, with all the indignities, reproaches, distresses, and persecutions, came upon him, for the sake of his being a preacher of the Gospel; and particularly for his being a teacher of the Gentiles: the Jews hated him, and persecuted him, because he preached the Gospel, and the more because he preached it to the Gentiles, that they might be saved; and the unbelieving Gentiles were stirred up against him, for introducing a new religion among them, to the destruction of their idolatry and superstition; and the sufferings which he endured were many; and he was appointed to them, as well as to the Gospel, which he preached.

### **Introduction:**

Rom 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

**Rom 4:2** For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Rom 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Rom 4:22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

**Rom 4:23** Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

Rom 4:24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

1. **There are two sides of the coin in understanding Justification:**

- a. Repentance – which is one side of the coin
- b. Faith – Which is the other side of the coin

2. **Both repentance and faith are gifts from God, and given freely to us according to His grace.**

- a. And they are inseparable; one cannot exist without the other.

Act 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **The same Holy Ghost who created within us the response of repentance also creates within us the ability to believe.**

4. **What is Faith?** Faith is the ability to believe God: Both to trust His character and to take His word as true and reliable.

- a. Faith is our response to the persuading, convincing work of the Spirit of God as He enables us to hear God's word.

## **A CLOSER LOOK AT FAITH**

1. **Faith is a persuasion:** Faith comes from a Greek word '*Pistis*' which means "firm persuasion; strong and welcome belief, a conviction of the truth of God's Word."

2. **Faith is substance and reality.** (Hebrews 11:1)

- a. Faith is not imagination, or the wishing of things into being.
- b. It is the conviction of truth by the Holy Ghost, persuading us to believe what actually exists.
- c. If God gives us the faith for something, we can be sure that in the mind of God it actually exists, and it is good as ours.
- d. **Hebrews 11:1** “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

3. **Faith is a gift from God:** (Eph 2:8) “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*”

- a. We cannot work ourselves up into believing. It is not the result of mental gymnastics.
- b. The Holy Ghost must place the ability to believe God in our hearts.

4. **Faith is the response to hearing:**

Rom 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- a. God communicates His thoughts through HIS WORD.
- b. When He enables us to hear what He is saying to us by His Spirit, it creates within us the response of faith.
- c. We become persuaded that what He is saying is indeed true and directed to us.

Luk 5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Luk 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Luk 5:6 And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net broke.

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 For yet, a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Heb 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

## **GOD'S MEANS OF PERSUASION TO BELIEVE**

### 1. **He uses the preaching of the Word:**

1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

### 2. **He directly works within us to convince us of Truth:**

**2Jn 1:2** For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us forever.

Psa 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

**Job 38:36** Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

### 3. **He makes the Scriptures alive to us:**

Act 26:18 To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Luk 24:45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures,

### 4. **Miracles confirm the validity (truthfulness) of His Word and increase our faith.** (John 10: 37, 38; Mark 16:20).

Joh 10:37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.

Joh 10:38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father *is* in me, and I in him.

Mar 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Our faith must be more than an acceptance of a doctrine, belief, etc.
2. Faith must be a conviction, of being absolutely persuaded that God is and He is a rewarder of seekers.

**Heb 11:6** But without faith *it is impossible* to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

3. **That persuasion must be individualized.**
4. Paul said in Romans 14:5 “...Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Heb 11:13** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.