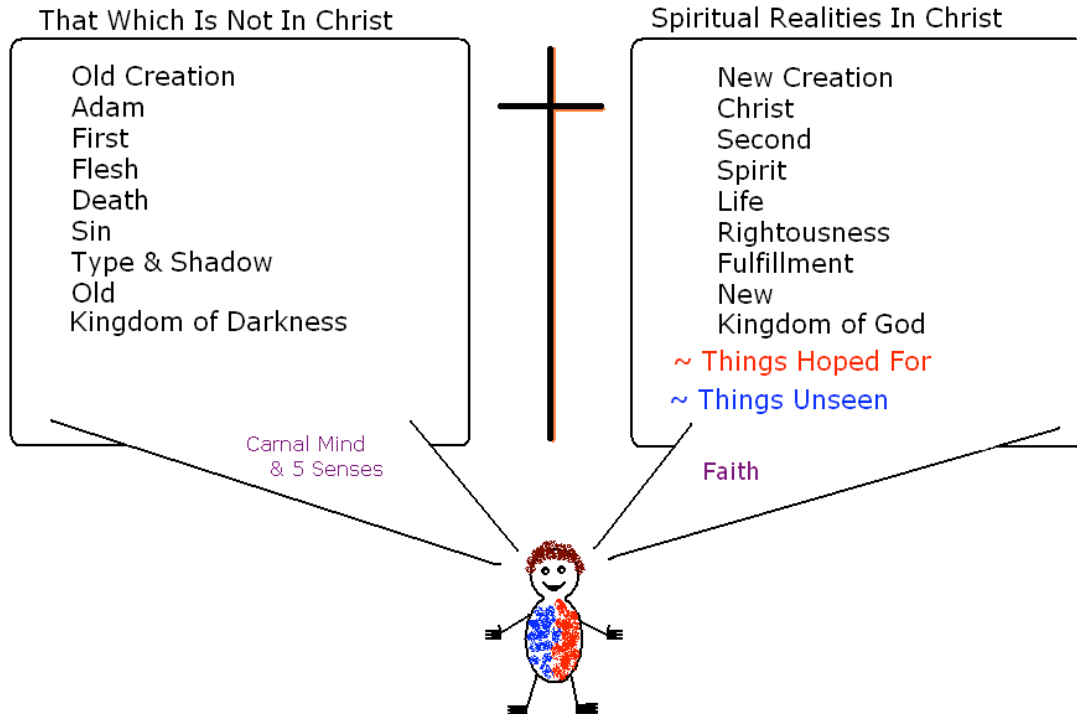


050710
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I've been thinking about the Egyptians crossing the Red Sea...and how they crossed with elderly and animals and babies...and how it was so important to the Lord that everyone passed over. I feel that way about our body. Its so important that we all pass over together. And because of that I wonder sometimes if I shouldn't stop and simply review things that we've talked about so that there is nobody left behind.

I'm not trying to make distinctions among us – the fast, the slow, the elderly, the animals. But there have been people in my life who so easily could have left me behind, but waited for me and that is precious. What's important to me these days is that we all stay together as much as possible. And that's because we're a body. One body. One new man.

And so it doesn't really matter at all to me anymore how much we cover. Because its not important how much we cover. What's important is how much we really see of Christ. And we can cover very little and see a whole lot. Or we can cover a lot and see very little. And those who have seen what we're trying to cover, will always welcome a chance to see more by covering things again.

Friends, we are growing in the knowledge of the Lord. Growing in faith. Renewing our mind. And that has almost nothing to do with Scriptural ground covered. And it has everything to do with seeing the one who is the ground.

Ok, today I'm going to start a series talking about faith. And specifically, and today I want to introduce this term "the faith of the Son of God". And we're just going to take our time with this. We may linger here for a few weeks.

Now, I know that in the body of Christ, anything and everything that has any kind of belief about anything uses the word faith. And I would suggest that the term "faith" is perhaps one of the most misunderstood words in the world.

So I'd ask that today...if we could just put our current definition of faith on the shelf and examine it from the word of God. And I'll just tell you that personally - I had to throw out my definition of faith a few weeks ago when I began to understand the faith of the Son of God.

Now, actually, that's not true. I didn't really throw out the definition. I was thinking about an analogy to describe what's happening to my doctrines and my understanding of Jesus. Imagine you're watching a movie through a straw. You've never seen the entire big screen...so you think you're seeing something so clearly. And you talk about it and teach about it.

Well, suddenly somebody hands you a paper towel roll and you get to watch the movie through that. Now its amazing. You can't believe what you were missing. Its not that what you were seeing was inaccurate through the straw, but your new view just sort of swallows up your puny little view in a much greater and more complete view of the movie.

What you saw was real through the straw, but so incomplete. In fact, its possible to have such a narrow view through the straw that you actually miss the main plot of the movie because you see so little. Now, nobody could convince you of that at the time because "bless God, I know what I've seen!". But...yet...when you get that paper towel role, you see that you've missed the very thing that explains and defines what you saw in the straw.

Well, then somebody hands you a piece of 4 inch PVC pipe. And now you're paper towel view is swallowed up in a 4 inch view.

Somebody was talking to me about healing the other day...and was saying that they got so focused in on healing, that they felt like, to some extent, they missed Jesus. Do you all know that that is possible.

So, anyway...my little view of faith got swallowed up in the faith of the Son of God. And I want to take some time with this. Trying to broaden our view...which is another way to say "to renew our mind", which is another way to say "to grow in faith" which is

another way to say “increase in the knowledge of God” which is another way to say “experience the mind of Christ.”

Friends, this bible we have tells one story. I know that the carnal mind likes to dissect it and make it about 490 different topics. But you’ll see, as you see Him of whom they are written, that all things testify of Him in death, burial, and resurrection. And I couldn’t mean that more literally.

Ok...now anybody with a King James Bible will have this translation of Galatians 2:20. “I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me. The life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God.” And you will also have a number of other verses that, rather than reading “faith in Christ” will read “the faith of Christ” or “Christ’s faith”. (And this isn’t a textus receptus issue...for those that know what I’m talking about)

Now, I can tell you that I was aware of that translation of those verses for a number of years but I didn’t like it and felt it must be wrong because it made no sense. I’ve recently realized that I didn’t like that translation because I looked at it through the filter of what I assumed faith was. I filtered that verse, like every other one until recently, through my carnal mind definitions and it simply didn’t make any sense for me to live by the faith of the Son of God.

How could I live by someone else’s faith? And why would Jesus even need faith if He was the Son of God? Well, again...all of that was according to my wrong definition of faith.

And so we’re going to be spending some time looking at faith as defined by the Scriptures – particularly in Hebrews 11, though I don’t know if we’ll get there today.

Here are some verses that you might want to look up in a literal translation:

ROMANS 3:22 Even the righteousness of God [which is] by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

GALATIANS 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

GALATIANS 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

PHILIPPIANS 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Ok, so what is the faith of the Son of God? Well let me just start by drawing a distinction between this and faith in the Son of God – that is, believing that there is a God, believing that He's real, and the He does or has done certain things. Faith in Christ is what we generally say when we're talking about what our natural mind believes to be true about spiritual things. That's great that you believe in God. But the distinction that we're talking about today is between what you believe in, and the His faith.

The faith of the Son of God is not a belief that you have in God, it is actually the understanding of God, the comprehension of God, the mind of God being worked in you. Being given to you. Its his view, his faith, his seeing being wrought in you.

If we can just for a minute use this definition – and we'll fill this in more in a little bit. But if for now we can use the definition that faith is a spiritual seeing, a spiritual comprehending, a spiritual understanding, a spiritual knowing, a spiritual view of spiritual reality. I think this true...though not complete. But it will help us get started.

If we can grab a hold of that a little bit – that faith is a spiritual view of spiritual reality - then we can begin to see that what we're growing in is His view, His understanding, His comprehension.

So you see, its not you, with your mind, believing in a thing. Its you having His mind wrought in you. Its you being given the mind of Christ. Its you coming to share His view, his knowing, his comprehension, HIS FAITH.

Should not the Lord's body, that shares his life, shares His righteousness...also share His mind? His faith?

So we're talking about a knowing that is not only given of God, but it is God's knowing. We're talking about a comprehension that is not only given by God, but it is God's comprehension. We're talking about a faith that is not only given by God, but it is the faith of the Son of God.

Not an ability to believe in God. Its His understanding being worked in you. You see, faith is nothing that the carnal mind has or does. Faith isn't something you try to muster up. Faith is the mind of Christ. Real faith has nothing to do with what the natural mind thinks or believes about spiritual things. Real faith is the mind of Christ working in you so that you share His view of reality.

Faith is nothing the carnal mind has or does. Faith is the mind of Christ. Seeing has He sees. Knowing as He knows. Comprehending what He comprehends. And walking in that view. Walking in that reality. Walking in faith.

Ok...so lets look at what faith sees. Faith sees something. The natural mind sees something else. But the faith of the Son of God sees something very specific.

Lets look at the diagram. Here is the great division that the cross makes. I'm not talking about a historical division. I'm not talking about BC from AD. Its not a division related to time – i.e. dates, years, divided by an event. It's a division between those things which are, and those things which are not. Not what? Not in Christ. There's a whole bunch of things that exist, but are not found in Christ. And those things are on the left.

There's another bunch of things that exist, and are found in Christ. And eye cannot see them, ear cannot hear them, nor can they enter into the mind of MAN...but the Spirit reveals them. These things are divided by the cross.

The things on the right are totally other than the things on the left. There is absolutely no blending of these two.

- Old Creation / New Creation ~ The earthly creation, a shadow of the new. Created for a man, for that man to fill it. The new creation, a heavenly spiritual one. Created for the New Man, for that man to fill it.
- Adam / Christ – we've spent so much time on that, so we wont say much on that. But that is the kind. The nature. The cross brings an end to one, and makes us partakers of the other.
- First / Second ~ everything of the first, points to the second. Everything of the natural, speaks of the invisible. Everything of old, testifies of the new. And the new is in Christ.
- Death / Life ~ separation from God, vs. union with God
- Sin / Righteousness – the nature and character of each man.
- Kingdoms ~ One kingdom is of an old man – the playground of the enemy. Satan rules over it. The other is the kingdom that Jesus spoke about. A kingdom that came with the king. And He sets up that kingdom in you. What is a kingdom, it is the governed territory of the king. And such are you meant to be.

I'm talking about a division of Old vs. New, Adam vs. Christ, first vs. second, etc. And that division takes you out of one and into another. (That division works in you.)

In other words, it's a division between earthly realities in the natural (old creation), and spiritual realities in Christ. The latter are the more real and the eternal. Its like two entirely separate universes, with the cross as the ladder leading from one to another.

And we can't get into this now, but that is exactly what Jesus told Nathaniel that he would see. He would see the Son of Man as a ladder that bridges two whole creations. The old creation and the new.

And the Cross is the division. The cross is the end of one and the beginning of the other. It was in history and it is in you.

You have two views of reality. Two totally different outlooks, perspectives, views on reality. One is according to site – seeing with the natural mind and the five senses.

When I say site, I don't just mean your natural eyes. I mean all of your natural senses. All that you can perceive, discern, access in the natural man. And all this natural view can see is the things that are not in Christ. The Old creation. The first. The Old. And all that this natural man can express is the first, the old, etc.

The other is according to faith (NOT BELIEVING THINGS!). Faith sees, observes, accesses, declares, walks in, knows, comprehends, all things of the second.

- Faith possesses the substance of things that have forever been hoped for
- Faith possesses and becomes the evidence of the things that are unseen in the first.
- We'll get to this more....

Faith sees all things of the second....all things new in Christ. Faith comprehends, because it is God's comprehension of these things. It is the faith of the Son of God. Faith understands because it is God's understanding being worked in you. It is the faith of the Son of God increasing in you. You are growing in this faith. You are growing in His understanding, His comprehension, His view, His faith.

There is a life that is not in Christ, a place that is not in Christ, a creation that is not in Christ...and all of this made so by the Cross.

But there is a life that is, but cannot be seen but by faith. A place that cannot be comprehended but by faith. A creation that cannot be known but by faith. All of this is IN CHRIST...where "eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered the heart of MAN (the first man)"...but which the Spirit has revealed.