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## Faith 02

\* just take a CD from last week.

### Review

- We're starting a series on "the faith of the Son of God"
- Suspend your definition of faith
- Straw analogy – add the stuff that falls away.
- The King James translation – and the literal translation.
- Why I didn't like that translation – how could I live by another person's faith, why would Jesus even need faith.

Ok, so what is the faith of the Son of God? Well we started last week 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 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.

And we said last week that we were going to use the following definition for faith, and then fill it in a little bit in coming weeks. But 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. Seeing as He sees. Knowing as He knows. Comprehending what He comprehends. And walking in that view. Walking in that reality. Walking in faith.

And so I used this little simple diagram to illustrate what faith sees. Faith sees something. The natural mind sees something else. But the faith of the Son of God sees something very specific. (Describe diagram for CD)

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. There may be a blending in your heart...but there is no blending in reality.

- Bunny Trail – the strictness of God about this division in Scripture – old an new.
  - Sabbath – God will have nothing of the first working in the second.
  - Circumcision – God will cut off the first to enter the second
  - Specific laws – don't mix this seed with the other seed
  - Romans 14 – whatever is not of faith is sin.

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. Not just the natural and the spiritual – because there are spiritual things (like demons) not found in Christ. But a division between all that is not in Him, of Him, filled with Him, and that which is. 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. There is a way from one to the other.

- Bunny Trail - And that is what Jesus told Nathaniel he would see.

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.
- That gets into Hebrews 11 – but I think we’re gonna wait one more week before we get there in any detail.

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 is, but cannot be comprehended but by faith. A creation that is, but 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.

### NEW

So now look at the diagram again. We got into this a little bit last week. But what we try to do is to live over here on the left side – in the old, in the first, in the dead, in the flesh, in Adam. Of course we don’t realize that we’re doing it, but we live over here...and we try to BELIEVE things over on the right, and we call it faith.

We try to believe things with our carnal minds. Not seeing them with the mind of Christ. We try to make ourselves believe things with our natural minds, and we call that faith.

But since we are living in the old, living in the first – we are defined by the old, we are defined by the first. All of the things that are real and experiential in the old possess us, control us, push us, pull us, effect us, drive us.

And when an uncomfortable situation comes as we’re living in the old (maybe a sickness, or a trial, or a storm of life)...what we TRY to do is to believe in something over here on the right. We try to get our carnal minds to believe something of the new. Something in Christ.

But before we can even do that (which doesn’t amount to much anyway, because its not His view, its not the mind of Christ, its your mind trying to believe a thing...) but before we can even do that we are totally defined by the storm. It has taken control of us. The storm is not just on the outside, it rages on the inside as well.

And then we either accuse one of two people – we accuse God, and say something like “why don’t you care about this situation”. Or we accuse ourselves and say “I’m not worthy of his blessing because I just can’t seem to make myself believe”.

Well, faith is nothing that that carnal mind does. Faith isn’t something that you try to do when you’re in a pinch. Faith is something we live by. Faith is an entirely different mind altogether. Faith is the mind of Christ – the faith of the Son of God.

But we live over here on the left. We abide there in our understanding, and by our carnal mind. And we think that we need to figure out how to get a bunch of different faiths working for different situations. You know, you need a faith for healing, and a faith for deliverance, and a faith for provision, and a faith for being a missionary. We think we need to make our natural mind believe in the right stuff on the Right. And then maybe God will throw something from over there to us over here.

Well, that’s nonsense. Faith is not your carnal mind believing a thing. We’re talking about the faith of the Son of the God. We’re talking about His understanding being worked in you. We’re talking about His comprehension being wrought in you. We’re talking about His seeing, His faith being given to you.

I said this last week, but should not His body also share His view, His faith?

One of the best illustrations of this is the story of Jesus and the disciples in the boat during the storm. Now I briefly talked about this last week, but lets look at it in some more detail this week. Read Mark 4:35-41

Here’s Jesus and His disciples getting into a boat, and Jesus mentions to them in Mark that they are going to go to the other side. Well a storm kicks up and Jesus couldn’t care less. Nothing of the first, nothing of the old, nothing of the old creation, nothing apart from the reality of Him in His Father effects Him, motivates Him, pulls Him, pushes Him, tugs at His fears, tugs at his emotions. He’s sleeping in faith. He’s abiding in the life of another. Living in faith. Living in a view of reality that is not altered by a storm in the old, a storm in the first. He was abiding in a clear view of spiritual reality. Abiding in the second, unmoved by the first.

**He wasn’t abiding in hope that he would survive it. He wasn’t abiding in a belief that God could save him out of it. He was walking in faith, living by a clear spiritual view of spiritual reality.**

Now the disciples had a so-called faith that demanded a deliverance from the circumstances in the natural. A deliverance from situations and storms in the first...on the left here. But Jesus had a faith that rested in the Deliverer.

He’s not there pretending like He’s asleep with one eye open testing His disciples. He’s really asleep in a view of reality. The storm is around Him, but not in Him.

But with the disciples (and with us) it is much different. The storm is around them, but it is really raging within them. And just like everyone else that lives by sight and not by faith...we find out that the storm on the outside has no problem creating the storm on the inside. The storm defines who we are, how we feel, what we do, what we want. We become, in effect, the evidence of the storm. The storm has evidence and substance in us.

And if you're like me when I'm defined by a storm, the first thing I try to do is grab my bucket and start trying to bail myself out with whatever strength and courage I can muster. And there are some storms that I can, in a surfacy way, manipulate myself out of them. Not ever fixing the problem, but putting a band-aid on the symptom in one way or another.

But many storms cannot be wiggled out of by the power of the old. By the power of the first. And so, sooner or later I walk over to Jesus – sound asleep in faith – and kick him awake and say “why don't you care that I'm perishing”. And we call that faith.

Do you see what happened here? That's how we treat God. That's how we understand faith. Rather than live by the faith of the Son of God – live by His spiritual view of all things spiritual – Galatians 2:21 “the life I know live I live by the faith of the Son of God”. Rather **than live by faith we try to muster up some kind of belief that he might throw us a life preserver after we've already been defined by the storm.**

And often, just like Jesus does in this story in Mark 4, he stands up and throws us a life preserver – but then turns to us and says “do you still have no faith? Do you still not see where you are? Do you still not see in Whom you've been seated? Do you still have no view of the reality that where I am there you are also? ”

And we say “well, yeah, I know you're real, I learned about you in Sunday School – and that's why I kicked you in the ribs and woke you up!”. And Jesus says “**If you saw what I see, if you lived by my faith, then you would have been sleeping on my pillow. Because nothing of the first can define you if you are found in me**”.

But they kick Him awake. And Jesus wakes up and says – hey guys its just a storm on the outside, a storm in the old, a storm in the first, but there need be no storm on the inside. But He stands up and gives them a deliverance from the storm – but He would much rather have stayed asleep in faith.

And then He rebukes them, but not because they didn't have faith to calm the storm, not because they couldn't do a mighty miracle. He rebukes them for not laying down and taking a nap in the faith of the Son of God – understanding that where He is, there I am also. He rebukes them for not joining Him in his rest.

Now friends, if this is true in the natural, in a literal storm on a literal boat with Jesus...HOW MUCH MORE if we are now seated in heavenly places IN CHRIST!. We are now in Him, and He is in us. We have been joined to Him and share his life. We share his history – his death, burial, and resurrection. And we share His future. If this is true in a boat in the flesh, how much more in the Father's house in the spirit. In the Father where we live in Him. Jesus says “you will know that I am in my Father, you in me, and I in you”.

But friends, if we do not see ourselves in Him, “in his boat”...if we are not found in Him, found in the second, found in the new creation, found in the kingdom, found in the light...then the storm defines us every time.

Do you see this? They were both in the same boat – but the disciples were the only ones in the storm – because the storm was in them. **And we wont even look unto Him to see if we just might be able to curl up with Him in faith...because we just want out of the storm.** We've got our mind fixed on the storm. We've got our heart fixed on the waves. And all we can think to DO is to grab another bucket. BUT ...maybe there's room on the pillow next to Jesus! Well, I'm too busy with my bucket to check it out. I'm too busy with this storm to think about rest. I'm too caught up in the flesh to think about the reality of being in Christ.

**Well Jesus is too busy taking a nap to think about the storm.** And brothers and sisters that's the way it can be with us. I'm too caught up with Christ to think about what so and so is saying about me. I'm too fixated on Jesus to be defined by my failures. I'm busy sleeping in Christ, I can't worry about tomorrow. I'm lost in the second, don't bother me with the first. I'm found in the new, don't bother me about the old. I live by the resurrection, don't talk to me about the dead.

When are we ever going to learn that the only way to beat a storm is to live by the faith of the Son of God? The only way to beat the first, is to manifest the second. The only way out of a storm, is to be found on His pillow.

And sometimes faith will calm the storm, and sometimes it wont. Sometimes it will deliver you out of the circumstances of the first, but sometimes it will just manifest the second among those circumstances – **but either way you're sleeping on the pillow with Jesus.**

And you'll see this in Hebrews 11. You'll see that the manifestation of faith varies – its different in different circumstances. It says that "by faith some shut the mouth of lions", and then it says that "by faith, some were eaten by lions". By faith some conquered kingdoms. And then, "by faith some were sawn in two and tortured". Do you see what this is saying?

Faith always manifests Christ in a situation. Faith always releases the second into the realm of the first. Faith always manifests the unseen in the realm of the seen. Faith always becomes a witness of Christ in a situation. And we're not going to look at this closely this week...but Hebrews 11 is about a bunch of those witnesses. In fact, Hebrews 12 calls it a cloud of witnesses. Witnessing to Christ by faith.

But let me just say quickly that sometimes faith releases something Christ does (like a healing or a miracle), sometimes it releases something Christ is (his nature and character), and sometimes it releases something He sees and knows (his wisdom, His mind). And the works of faith differ – the but it is all the faith of the Son of God.

Sometimes faith calms the storm. Sometimes faith allows you to tread water for a couple days in the storm. But all the while abiding in the faith of the Son of God. Living by the faith of the Son of God.

Someone could have walked up to Jesus and said "show me your faith by getting down off that cross". And Jesus might have replied, I'll show you my faith by staying up here on the cross. Faith doesn't always do the same thing – but it always manifests Christ. It always evidences that which is unseen in Him. It always expresses the substance of our glorious hope.

We'll get into more of the works of faith next week I think, and into Hebrews 11. But its enough for today if we can just see that faith sees, accesses, lives by the reality of being in Christ. Faith rests in that reality.

And growing in faith, we find ourselves a little bit at a time more like Jesus who can rest in a storm. The faith of the Son of God defines you and storms can blow in and blow out...water can come up on your boat, etc. But the first no longer pulls on you. No longer pushes, tugs, controls, defines you. You begin to live by a view of the new creation. You begin to live by law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:2). You begin to live by something other than sight...something other than a view into all things natural, all things dead, all things old, all things of the first.

You begin to live by a view, a seeing, a comprehending, a knowing, an understanding, a FAITH not only given to you by God, but it is the faith of the Son of God.

"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."