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### Faith 03

We've spent the last two weeks on faith – specifically the faith of the Son of God. And I always see visitors here and am tempted to start over from the beginning so that we're all on the same page, but I can't do that. We have CD's available for just 1 dollar for anybody that missed the last two Sundays.

We'll review just for a minute – Review:

1. Our faith vs. the faith of the Son of God.
2. The literal translations of those passages.

So what we're talking about is not your natural mind believing in spiritual things. What we're talking about is the mind of Christ being formed in you. We're talking about His understanding, his comprehension, his spiritual view of spiritual reality being worked into your heart. So you can walk by that view, live by that view, live by the faith of the Son of God.

So lets just jump in where we left off...wherever that was. Look at our diagram. On the left side we have a list of realities that are not found in Christ. Some of them pointed to Christ, some of them were types and shadows of Christ, but they are not found in Christ. They are of the first, not the second. They are of the old, not the new

On the right side we have all of those things which are of Christ, in Christ, found in Christ, filled with Christ. And these lists are separated by the cross. The cross brings one into the grave, and the other side shares in the resurrection. And that's what resurrection is – its life from the dead. Not just an event that involved a tomb. But life that came forth out of death. And that's why Jesus – seeing beyond the cross says to Martha "I am the resurrection".

And, as we have discussed, faith always sees the reality of being in Christ. Faith always sees the spiritual substance of Christ. It always sees life, the new creation, that which is eternal, that which is spirit. It always sees it and always becomes the manifestation of it. It always beholds it you are transformed into its image. It always access it, and walks in it, - and thereby manifesting the substance of things unseen.

Faith accesses and experiences the reality of being in Christ. And there is a verse in Romans 5 that talks about that.

Romans 5:1-2

- o 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace in which we stand,**

Faith accesses this grace in which we stand. Faith sees it, knows it, experiences it, accesses it. Now what is this grace in which we stand? It is the reality of being in Christ.

I've been working on a functional definition of grace. And I'm not sure that I've landed on one that I'm perfectly happy with, but let me give it a shot. Many people speak of grace as though it's just getting something you don't deserve. Well, you certainly don't deserve it, but that's not a full definition in my opinion.

I would say that a better definition is something like this: Grace is the way that God deals with believers wherein Christ is made all things unto us. Let me say it slightly differently. Grace is the way God now relates to you, whereby everything he desires from you is given to you in the giving of Christ. Let me say it one more way. Grace is the way that God deals with you whereby, because of the cross, you have been crucified and it's no longer you but Christ who lives in you.

So...here (on the right side of our diagram) we are standing in grace. Here we are standing in this reality that Christ has been made all things spiritual unto us. Here we are standing in Him...where everything required by the Father is now given to us in the giving of Christ. We are standing in grace. We are standing in the second. And we have access to this wonderful dealing of God, this grace, by faith.

But let me just finish my grace bunny trail here. Grace is not reactionary. Grace is not something God hands out to you in response to your sins. You know...we come to God and say "I have committed 3 units of sin...and now I am in need of 3 units of grace". No, grace is not just God's reaction to your defection. Grace is God dealing with you according to the cross...crucifying the old man, and now you hidden with Christ in God. Grace is the way he deals with you now where Christ is made all things spiritual unto you.

And you access that reality by faith. It is finished, and it is in you, and so you experience it when it is revealed in you. You experience that reality by a spiritual comprehension, a spiritual seeing, a spiritual accessing of the finished work of God in Christ. You have access into this grace in which we stand by faith.

I know I keep saying the same thing over again. But the alternative is that I could say it once and then we could all pretend like we've learned it. Or I could say it a bunch of times until it sinks down into our hearts and we see it.

By faith you have access into this grace in which we stand.

And Paul refers to this in Ephesians 3 where he prays that the believing community in Ephesus would experience Christ dwelling in their heart by faith. "I thought He was already there!?" Well, he is...but we access Him by faith. We experience Him only by the faith of the Son of God. We walk in Him, abide in Him, only to the extent that His mind is worked in us. Only to the extent that we live by the faith of the Son of God.

And so we grow in our experience and expression of Christ according to the measure of faith.

And here's another bunny trail – but you'll find that whenever faith increases, faith will be tested. This is the way we grow in living by faith. Whenever the foundation is enlarged, the foundation is tested. Whenever he increases your view, he tests your view to see if you can stand in it. He's not testing it for His sake. He knows

what is genuine...but we don't. So he tests our faith to show us what is there. He tests our foundation to see what we can abide in, live by, stand on that foundation. And that is what God was trying to do in my life for years, and I called it the devil. He was trying to show me my unsure foundation.

But as our foundation is enlarged, that foundation will be tested. Because faith that is tested is a faith that will stand. A view that you can stand in.

Ok...so back to our diagram. Last week we talked about how the disciples were defined by the storm. How the storm raged on the outside, but it also raged on the inside. Because they were found in the old, in the first, in the earth...living by the carnal mind, living by natural senses, living by sight and not by faith...the storm raged within them. And so you could say that the storm was evidenced in them.

Now, that being true to some degree in the natural, so much more when we live in the second. So much more when we live by faith and not by sight. Now, in Christ, we are in Christ and Christ is evidenced in and through us by faith. By seeing Him who is unseen. By walking in faith.

And what you'll find is that faith not only sees the reality of being in Christ, faith beholds and becomes that reality. Faith doesn't just believe in it, faith walks in it. Faith accesses the substance. Faith evidences the unseen. No sooner do you realize that it is objectively real, then you begin to experience it as reality in you. Now, not all at once, but Faith sees that it is true in Christ, and then you'll find it to be true in you, because Christ is in you.

Somebody one time asked me "Jason, even if I can see these things clearly by faith, isn't it a whole other thing altogether to walk it out". And the answer to that question is "not exactly". The reason is that what you are seeing is NOT something that you hope will be true of you one day. What you are really seeing is what is already true of you because of the cross. And when you see it, you see that you are it. When you see it by faith, not by theology, but by faith then you understand that it is a finished work that you can abide in.

Now there is an extent to which you first begin to glimpse it and don't fully experience it. You catch a glimpse of light, but not a clear view. And so we need to grow in faith. But faith is a clear view of something that already exists.

**Faith doesn't create something that doesn't exist. Faith just accesses the which is already real in Christ. Faith accesses the grace in which we already stand.**

Listen, I know this is hard to hear at first. That's why we've dropped our CD's to a dollar and put things for free on the website. This might as well have been Yiddish to me the first time I heard it. But the more I hear, the more faith comes. Faith comes by hearing. The more I hear these things, and open my heart to the Lord like a child, the more they open up to my view.

I was talking to Rick Miller this week and he was telling me about how he just was listening to this one CD by Randy Nusbaum for the third time and then POOF – He saw it! It was always there, on the CD and in Rick, but then He saw it.

Seeing it didn't make it true. Faith doesn't make it true. Its not mind over matter. Its not true because you think it is. It was already true, and faith accessed the grace in which we stand. And then your heart (and this is what Rick told me) begins to line up with the reality that is objectively true. **Your heart begins to line up with something that defined you in Christ long before you ever began to comprehend that defining.**

You know, most of us Christians think that the old, the first, the adamic experience is the real world, and we have to have a prophetic dream to taste some of the coming world. Nonsense. No, the reality is that you are seated in heavenly places in Christ right now. The dream is actually this Adamic slumber that defines you. And you're waking up out of that dream to see what is actually real. The dream isn't the reality of being in Christ. That's the real world. That's the truth of you. The dream is the blind slumber of the un-renewed mind that still thinks its living in the flesh for God, under the Law, in the old covenant. That's a bad dream. And to that Paul says "wake up, oh sleeper, and Christ will shine on you!".

And so, you begin to wake up. You begin to wake up and find yourself seated in Him. Found in Him. Its always been true, since you were born again, but you've been sleeping. And for a little while maybe you can't figure out if the dream was true or if this is true. But the more you walk around in reality, and reality defines you, (maybe someone pinches you in Christ) the more you can stand in the reality, stand in the new creation, stand in faith.

This isn't that difficult to understand. Some of you have told me about things like this. Like when the Lord opened your eyes and gave you a clear view of what it meant to be in Christ where there is no condemnation...when you actually saw with spiritual sight (the faith of the Son of God) that there is no condemnation IN CHRIST JESUS...It didn't take 10 months, 10 weeks, or even 10 days for that reality to begin to work into your heart - **because it was already true of you**, and you were just accessing, you were just seeing a finished work by faith.

So, looking back at our diagram - what true faith always does is releases the substance of Christ, the finished work, into a situation through you. You see it, you are it because of the cross, and you manifest it. And you could use these three words to describe that - light, life, an glory.

And so the true work of faith is the manifestation of Christ. It is the manifesting the kingdom on earth as it is in the heavens. Faith is the evidencing and substantiating of all that Christ is in you and in me.

Now lets get into Hebrews 11 with our diagram here. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". The things on the left are things that are real, but are not found in Christ. And we access all of those thing through our natural senses. Through our carnal mind.

But the things on the right here are things that are unseen in the first. Unseen by the first. But they are revealed by the Spirit. They are seen by faith. So Paul says

*2Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

The Bible has specific teachings about this term "the unseen". The author of Hebrews isn't sucking this term out of his thumb in chapter 11.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that He's talking about the things that He has seen in the Father. But then he tells the Jews that no man has ever seen these things, except the Son of man who came out of heaven.

Paul tells his readers in ROMANS 8:24

*"For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one hope for what he sees?"*

Yes you don't see it in the natural. You don't see it in the first. Its not seen with the carnal mind. It is seen by faith, and so we walk by faith and not by sight.

Paul tells the Corinthians that "the eye has not SEEN what God has prepared for His people".

No eye has seen it, but there is substance to it. There definitely can be an evidencing of it. An evidencing by faith.

Now, what about this term "the things hoped for". What was hoped for? The Bible has clear teachings on this term as well. There was a lot hoped for. There were a lot of promises made. There were a lot of prophecies given. There was a lot of expectation. A lot of hope. What was hoped for?

Well, there was a kingdom hoped for in which righteousness dwelled. There was eternal life hoped for. There was a King hoped for. There was a new creation hoped for. There was redemption hoped for. There was glory hoped for. There was peace with God hoped for. There was freedom hoped for. There was rest hoped for. There was bountiful provision hoped for. EVERYTHING PROMISED WAS HOPED FOR.

And what does Paul say about this.

*2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 For as many as may be the promises of God, **in Him they are yes;***

This verse isn't just talking about you hoping for a new Cadillac and claiming it by faith. No, this verse is talking about the substance of all things hoped for, now fulfilled in Christ, being accessed by faith. Being evidenced by faith.

Lets read this verse again. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen." One of my literal translations reads something like this "faith is the substantiating of the things having been hoped for, and the evidencing of the things having been unseen." I like that. I've read that those two words are actually verbs in the original. But I cannot confirm that this morning.

Faith in you becomes that substance. Faith in you becomes the evidence. Can you see what I'm talking about? And that's because faith releases the substance of Christ through you into a situation. **The true work of faith is the manifestation of Christ. The true work of faith is the manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in the heavens.** And that's why Hebrews 11 says that "without faith it is impossible to please God." Because faith manifests the One of whom the Father testified "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased".

Hebrews 11 is about men and women who saw, by faith, some of this substance (though not possessing it, because what they saw came with Christ). But they saw it and they bore witness to it. They saw that which was unseen.

You see Abraham in vs. 8 – 10 leaving his own land “for he looked forward to a city having foundations of which the builder and maker is God”. That’s what Abraham saw by faith.

And then vs. 13, speaking of the entire list thus far “all of them died in faith, not having received the promises, **but having seen them from afar**, and having been persuaded, and having embraced, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims” in the old, in the first, in the dead. Strangers in the first, because they saw the second by faith.

Vs. 15 “if they had been mindful of that from whence they came out, they might have had time to return”, but what did they do? “they reached forward to a better land, that is a heavenly one: so then God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He prepared for them a city” Halleluiah!

Well, what about Moses? Well, vs. 26 – “Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt” Moses thought the stigma of the second was better than the best of the first. Moses would rather suffer in the new, then be “blessed” in the old. Moses would rather suffer a little among the living, then be rich among the dead. Why?

Vs. 27 “for he kept seeing Him who is unseen”.

What did Moses see? He saw by faith Him who is unseen, and he stretched forward for that One. He left the old behind.

Oh this is so amazing. But as I began to say last week, that manifestation may be different in different circumstances. Lets read a little bit in Hebrews here.

Vs. 33 “by faith, some overcame kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword...women received their dead back. etc.

Vs. 36 “Others received cruel mockings, floggings, bonds, prison, they were stoned, tried, sawn in two, slain by the sword, afflicted, ill treated.”

The manifestation of Christ was different in every situation. Sometimes that manifestation delivers you out of the power of the old. Sometimes it just manifest the new in the midst of the old. Sometimes it quenched the fire. Sometimes it let you abide in peace while you were thrown in the fire. Sometimes it calmed the storm, sometimes it just gave Paul grace to tread water in the storm.

Sometimes faith will release something Christ does (like a healing or miracle), sometimes it will release something He is (his nature and character), sometimes it will manifest something He knows (his wisdom, knowledge). But it will be a manifestation of Christ.

The specific type of manifestation varies, but its all the manifestation of Christ. Wherever you go, whatever is going on, whatever faith releases, it is not I but Christ. It is He and not I.

Can you see that's what Paul is talking about in 2 Corinthians 2:14?

*14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. 15 For we are a fragrance of Christ to God...*

And then it goes on to say that that same fragrance smells like life to some and death to others. But it is the aroma of Christ.

If you live by faith, walk by faith, you release the aroma of Christ, the fragrance of the knowledge of Him into your situation. If you walk by sight, live in the old – you give off the odor of the old man. You give off the odor of Adam.

Let me ask you a question – which odor do you give off? I heard somebody say one time "if you stay in a place long enough, its going to smell like you". Well, I'm not talking about B.O. here. I'm talking about the fragrance of one of two men.

But those who live by faith only have one smell. You know, to us there are some of Adam's smells that we like better than others. But to God its all just one big stink. We've actually come to enjoy some of Adam's odors. Now some of them we all agree are just disgusting. But there are others, particularly those that are religious, that seem to have a familiar, comforting funk. But God is not confused about what smell he's after. The whole Adamic creation simply smells like death to Him.

And I think that is why he always enjoys the smell of the sacrifice. Remember in the Old Testament how, when an offering was totally consumed in the fire, it often says that it was a pleasing smell in nostrils of God. Did you ever wonder why? Well now you know. Did you really think he likes the literal smell of burning cows? **Or do you think that what he likes is the total destruction of that which represents the old man.**

Gee, Aaron, did you have to burn the entire thing? Friends, that's why we're called living sacrifices. Come on, the sacrifice isn't you giving up the football game to go to church. **You are** the sacrifice! You're on the altar getting consumed. And the cross is the consuming fire. And God loves the smell of Adam getting burned up in you.

"Well, I'm a living sacrifice, so I guess I'll sign up for this church committee." Come on friends...he's not after the sacrifice of your time. He's after you. He wants you dead, so He can live in you. Quit trying to give him your best, and just jump up there on the altar. Save some time! He's not after your best. He wants you dead.

So what smell do you give off? You know, Martha comes up to Jesus when he's about to raise Lazarus from the dead and says "hey, I don't think we should role away the stone, by this time he'll probably stink". Well, Jesus could say "come on Martha, it can't be any worse than this continual Adamic stink that I smell everywhere in Israel. It might actually be an improvement."

You wont actually find that in your bible, but its in the original Greek.