**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 10:11-17 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1749 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. The measurement that will measure what we accomplish in our Christian life is faith.
      1. Matthew 9:29
         1. Not according to our fame, our feelings, our fortune, our friends or our fate, but according to our faith.
   2. Faith is the medium of exchange in the Kingdom of Heaven.
      1. When we go to the grocery store, we use money to buy groceries.
      2. But we receive from God by faith.
   3. Faith is the greatest asset that we have; unbelief is the greatest stumbling block.
      1. Unbelief is the chief wickedness.
      2. The sin of all sins is unbelief.
         1. It was unbelief that caused Eve to sin against God in the Garden of Eden.
            1. She failed to believe the Word of God.
         2. It was unbelief that caused the Israelites not to go into the Promised Land.
            1. Hebrews 3:19
         3. It was unbelief that tied the hands of Jesus when He was in His own hometown.
            1. Matthew 13:58

The sovereign God has limited Himself to work according to the faith, the belief of the people of God.

* 1. Unbelief is the sin that sends people to Hell.
     1. John 3:18
        1. It is unbelief that shuts the door to Heaven.
  2. Mark 9:23
     1. In the spiritual realm, if we do not believe, nothing is possible.
  3. Romans 1:17
     1. Just as we live physically by breathing and eating, we live spiritually by faith.
  4. Romans 10:11-17
     1. “Shall not be ashamed” literally means that he will not be put to shame.
  5. The blessings of God will come to us if we will learn to believe Him.
  6. It is absolutely necessary that we learn how to believe God.

1. the reality of biblical faith (romans 10:11)
   1. Faith must have the right object to be real faith.
      1. Romans 10:11
   2. There is no power in faith alone.
      1. There is nothing mystical or magical about just believing.
   3. Faith is no better than its object.
      1. Misplaced faith is a dangerous thing.
      2. It is not faith that moves mountains; it is God that moves mountains.
         1. Mark 11:22
         2. John 3:15-16
   4. Faith is not positive thinking.
      1. If we make faith just simply positive thinking, then we will get discouraged.
   5. If we put faith in faith, we will be a sitting duck for the devil.
      1. The devil will say that we’re not good enough to be saved.
         1. We ought to say that we don’t have faith in ourselves.
      2. The devil will say that there are hypocrites in the church.
         1. We ought to say that we’re not putting faith in hypocrites, but we’re trusting the Lord.
      3. The devil will question our feelings.
         1. We ought to say that we’re not trusting in feelings but trusting in the Lord.
      4. The devil will question whether our faith is good enough, strong enough and the real thing.
         1. We should not put faith in our faith; our faith should be in Jesus.
   6. The least amount of faith in the right object is better than strong faith in the wrong object.
      1. We are to believe Him.
      2. Hebrews 12:2
   7. We’re to be looking to Jesus.
      1. Don’t look at your look; don’t put faith in your faith.
         1. Put faith in God.
   8. God will honor even weak faith.
      1. Mark 9:20-27
         1. The father in this passage had a weak faith, but it was a faith in God.
      2. This is not to say that we should have weak faith; it is far better to have strong faith.
      3. Matthew 17:20
         1. The least amount of faith is greater than the greatest amount of difficulty if it is faith in God.
   9. The way to have strong faith is to put your faith in God; find out who God is.
      1. When we put our faith in God, our faith will grow.
      2. Faith comes from a knowledge of God.
         1. Romans 10:11
      3. If you want to have strong faith, don’t try to make yourself believe; get to know God.
      4. Psalm 9:10
      5. Daniel 11:32
   10. Faith is no better than its object; we must know God.
2. the root of biblical faith (romans 10:14)
   1. All true Biblical faith is rooted not only in knowing God, but in hearing from the God we know.
   2. Romans 10:14, 17
      1. In order to have faith, we must hear from God.
         1. We cannot know the will of God by guessing at it.
      2. In verse 17, it says that faith comes.
         1. We don’t generate faith; it comes.
            1. God gives faith.
   3. Ephesians 2:8-9
      1. Faith is the gift of God.
         1. Grace is the gift of God, and so is the faith to receive the grace.
   4. Philippians 1:29
      1. It is given to us to believe; God gives faith.
   5. No one can believe God unless God enables him to believe.
      1. God gives us His Word.
         1. This is how He enables us to believe.
         2. Romans 10:17
      2. We don’t name and claim it.
         1. God speaks, and we believe it and receive it.
   6. Hebrews 11:1
      1. The word “hope” in the Bible means bedrock assurance based on the promise of God.
         1. It is assurance mingled with anticipation.
            1. This is why the Bible calls the second coming of Jesus “the blessed hope.”

Titus 2:13

It is the blessed hope, not the blessed maybe.

We know He is coming because He said so.

* + 1. The Greek word “substance” means something beneath that we can stand on.
       1. When we’re living by faith, we’re not walking around on eggshells and jello.
          1. Faith is not jello; it is the substance of things hoped for, the things that God has said.
  1. The root of faith is the Word of God.
     1. Romans 10:17
  2. How does God communicate His Word? How does God speak?
     1. There are two words in the Greek language for “Word:”
        1. One is “logos.”
           1. Jesus is called the “Logos,” the Word of God.
           2. The Logos is the Bible, the written Word that tells of the Living Word.

The Revelation of God, given in Christ, revealed in the Bible.

* + - 1. The other word is “rhema.”
         1. This is the word that is used in Romans 10:17.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God.

* + - * 1. “Rhema” means an utterance, a spoken word.

It is a word from the Word.

When we read the Bible (the Logos), it begins to speak to us out of the Word of God.

We get a rhema from the Logos.

We hear from God in our hearts.

* + 1. We must hear from God.
       1. It is not enough just to hear a sermon.
          1. Romans 10:14
    2. God speaks to us and gives us something when we’re reading the Bible or praying, and God puts that portion in our hearts.
       1. Does God speak to you?
          1. Are you listening?
          2. Do you have a quiet time?
          3. Are you saturated with the Word of God?
          4. Are you ready to do His will?
          5. Do you want to hear Him?
          6. Are you reporting for duty?
    3. The root of faith is the rhema of God.

1. the result of biblical faith
   1. The purpose of faith is not to get man’s will done in Heaven, but to get God’s will done on Earth.
   2. The result of faith is the will of God.
      1. We cannot have faith unless we hear from God.
      2. What we will hear from God is the will of God.
   3. We cannot have faith for anything that is not the will of God.
      1. If it is not the will of God, then there is no possible way that we can have faith for it because faith is the gift of God.
      2. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and God is not going to give us a word on something that is not His will.
         1. This keeps God in control.
         2. If we could just believe for whatever we want and have it, then we would easily make a mess of things, and it would put us in the driver’s seat rather than God.
      3. This does not mean fewer blessings for us.
         1. It means more blessings for us.
            1. The will of God is not something we have to do; it is something we get to do.
   4. 1 John 5:14
2. the release of biblical faith (romans 10:16-18)
   1. True faith does more than merely believe; it obeys.
      1. If what we say we believe does not translate into action, then we don’t really believe.
   2. Romans 10:16-18
      1. When we believe the Gospel, we are to obey it.
         1. Faith is belief with legs on it.
   3. Romans 10:21
      1. God spoke, but they didn’t obey.
         1. Not everyone will obey the Gospel; not everyone will release their faith.
      2. The word “gainsaying” means “obstinate.”
         1. We debate.
            1. We hear the Word of God, we hear God speak, but we parade it past the judgment bar of our minds and choose not to believe it or obey it.
   4. We must release our faith by obedience.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. When the Lord Jesus hung on Calvary’s cross, He united God and man.
      1. With His blood, Jesus reconciled God and man.
      2. Romans 5:10
   2. We will not get to Heaven by the works that we do.
   3. We will not get to Heaven by our reason or logic.
   4. We will only get to Heaven through redemption.
      1. Trust and obey Jesus.
   5. The release of our faith is believing God and obeying Him.
   6. Have you given your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ?
      1. Do you trust Him to save you?
   7. Pray to Jesus now, asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16