

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE

22/3/09

A study on the topic of salvation reveals much more than finding favour with God and being in a spiritually safe position. It also includes a willingness to step out in faith and let God reveal the unseen opportunities and blessings, which can only come through a solid commitment to serving the Lord. We are challenged by Christ to step out and live by the power of the New Testament, which we all have inherited through faith.

Paul shares his great personal vision for every member of the church with Timothy.

2TIM 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God**, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. *Spirit filled people need to be reminded to be stepping out in faith... for their good.*

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power** (supernatural ability), and of **love** (brotherly service), and of a **sound mind** (the ability to develop and exercise self control).

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the **afflictions of the gospel** according to the power of God; *The greatest affliction can be self denial.*

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **his own purpose and grace** (God has a purpose for us that can only be discovered by continuing acts of faith), which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

The greatest challenge is to continually live by faith.

HEB 11:1 Now faith is the **substance** (foundation, assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. *Proved that faith gives ordinary people, amazing lives.*

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. *He had a heart for God's calling.*

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. *Taking on challenges requires personal denial. What does your church (family) need?*

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, **not knowing whither he went**. *He did it God's way, trusting the Lord.*

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, *Many of Abraham's acts of faith were rewarded with immediate blessings.*

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. *Moses is an example of all these thoughts.*

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. *He effectively put God first at the expense of his natural ambitions... can you?*

27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. *God blessed every step they took and kept adding to their faith and personal satisfaction.*

Let's go back to an earlier scripture...

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. *If you are not taking up challenges for God, then you are not walking by faith.*

Peter appeals to their love of God and their willingness to serve him as a way of life.

2PET 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: *An absolute, unconditional guarantee.*

Take up the challenge and get a far better life with much more rewarding results.