

MORE THAN BLIND FAITH

1/11/15

Many see Christians as people who have second rate lives, artificially driven by blind faith... often associated with the denial or abstinence of many of life's pleasures. Most of these impressions result from the very negative portrayal of religious people in movies and in general life. The ongoing revelations of child molestation and other poor treatment of innocent people by some churches, is also detracting from the life of real Christians. Many church goers also expect very little from God... many are driven by powerless hope and unanswered faith. However, true Christianity is nothing like what most people believe.

Blind faith is not a Christian trait... those who are Christians as defined in the bible; have a life filled with opportunity, real hope, God given power and supernatural blessings.

The Bible is still the best place to learn about Christian life and real Christian values.

JOH 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: *Many stop at this verse without going on to complete the balance of the promise. The next verse qualifies the difference between blind faith and true faith. The believer must go past believing... they have to act upon God's directions.*

13 Which were **born**, not of blood (natural birth), nor of the will of the flesh (natural desire), nor of the will of man (sexual desire), **but of God**. *It is essential that this promise of spiritual rebirth is adhered to. That is what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 and Acts 10... they were born again with real power and received the evidence of speaking in new languages. This is real bible faith and it gets real bible results.*

Once a person is born again (spiritual birth)... they still need to act upon real faith... not blind faith. These verses address this issue.

JAM 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? *This question deals with real life issues... is belief/faith on its own enough? (even though the Spirit and power of God are present). The question is answered by using obvious day to day problems.*

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? *Words without actions and spiritual expectations are useless... people need real help, not empty promises.*

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. *The simple act of obeying God brings about results... that is what makes faith effective.*

24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. *The true Christian life is built upon interacting with other people... following God's directions... not just agreeing with them.*

25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? *A simple act of faithful obedience leads to the saving of this woman's life and that of her family.*

26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. *This verse summarises the urgency, yet simplicity relating to faithful living.*

Actions are required... the Bible calls these actions 'works'. What are the works that God wants me to do? Jesus summarised them in the great commission...

MAT 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations** (make disciples), **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 **Teaching them to observe** (obey) **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even unto the end of the world. Amen. These very simple acts of doing the lord's work... result in miracles, signs and wonders. Many struggle to get healings or blessings by focusing their faith on the problem... that is ineffectual and faith destroying. The best way to get results is by walking in the Spirit. By all means put your prayer needs to God. Once this is done, get on with serving God. It is these works that turn blind faith into miracle working faith. Go and build yourself up... get real faith by involving yourself in real works... go and serve God.*