

“The End of Your Faith” By Paul R. Blake

1Peter 1:7-9 - “That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.”

What a precious, beautiful truth -- that the trying of our faith produces the end of our faith! What madness is this? Not madness at all, rather a profound spiritual truth that supersedes the reasoning of men.

For some, the sore testing of their faith brings about an end to belief in Almighty God, His great wisdom, and His deep love for humankind. But, that's not "the end of... faith" that Peter was talking about. The impulsive apostle was inspired to write that our trials bring about the logical conclusion and proper fulfillment of our faith, not its demise. The effects God purposes with the temptations He allows us to face (1Cor. 10:13) are manifold. He designed faith to be the regulator that permits us to properly channel our tests, suffering, and burdens into spiritually productive results.

Faith is the means through which God's power preserves us in a righteous condition until the end. Peter said, “Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (vs 5).

By faith, we apprehend the will of God in obeying the Gospel (Acts 8:36-37). By faith, we are moved to do the works of righteousness for which we have been created (Eph. 2:10).

Through faith, Jesus paid for our sins. Faith becomes the means through which it becomes possible that atonement could be made. Romans 3:23-25 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.”

Faith is the avenue through which it becomes possible to obtain salvation. (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 4:13-25; James 2:14-26) Paul told Timothy, “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2Tim. 3:15).

In addition, faith gives us access to the promises God has given to the righteous. Hebrews 3:12 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” Gal. 3:14 - “That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Without faith, we would have no idea where we came from... Heb. 11:3 - “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”; or where we are going when this world is folded up... 1Peter 1:5 - “Who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Our faith is crucial. Without faith, our works become pointless, our lives become useless, and life beyond the grave becomes hopeless. Because of the vital nature of

our faith, God desires that it should wax stronger so that it will not succumb to trials in this life, but end by being fulfilled in the hereafter when faith becomes sight. Therefore, while our faith must not end while breath exists in our bodies, at the same time we anticipate the end of our faith, the eternal salvation of our souls in heaven.

Now, how can we prevent our faith from ending while waiting for the end result of our faith? Peter gave us the answer: 1Peter 1:6-7 - "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

The trying of our faith is the God-given way of determining the genuineness of our faith. The testing of our faith is the Divine plan for strengthening our faith. Though briefly in heaviness of heart, we can take joy in the fact that our faith, so crucial to our eternal salvation, is being looked after by God. He must truly love us to see that our faith gets tested regularly. He must care a great deal for us to allow us carefully measured trials to make our faith and hope more certain. Indeed we can rejoice that the burdens we bear will serve to prevent our faith from ending while we wait to see "the end of our faith... the salvation of our souls."

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:2-4).

Our Words Matter

By T. Sean Sullivan

Words are abundant—in our English language, as of Sunday (10-17-10) there are 1,007,113 words, with another one added every 98 minutes. This is based on a calculation from the "Global Language Monitor" (languagemonitor.com).

Our most efficient and powerful form of communication is words. Many have heard the quote, "The pen is mightier than the sword"—this was from a play written in 1839 by Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Similar statements were made over the centuries. Greek poet, Euripides who died four hundred years before the time of Christ wrote "the tongue is mightier than the blade"

More accurately than any poet Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt. 12:35-37). The words that we say matter!

A Moments Wisdom

An eye for an eye makes us all blind.

If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade.

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month.

There is nothing so annoying as to have two people talking when you're busy interrupting.

There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.
The right to be heard does not necessarily include the right to be taken seriously.