

Faith Is Now And For Our Day!

Faith Is Based On Spiritual Facts Already Done

By B. D. Tate

Faith is based on the truth and spiritual facts. Faith is ***not a hope*** and ***future*** expectation of good things promised to us; it is based upon what God ***has already given us***. Faith does not believe God is ***going to move*** on our behalf but it is employing the power of God that has already been given for us to use.

The Old covenant people could ***not operate in faith*** because nothing had been done everything about salvation ***was in the future***.

2Co 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, **and in the day of salvation** I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation**.

This is the day that the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it (Ps. 118:24)! This is the time; now is the day of salvation. **Now is the time of faith! This is because Jesus has been glorified!**

The people who lived prior to the cross ***had no legal grounds*** to stand on. The only provision they had was the law. The Law of Moses provided God's blessings based upon keeping it. The Law also provided a sacrificial system that would ***cover their transgressions—temporarily..*** Since no one could keep the law and everyone stood guilty before God, then no one had legal standing. If I come before a judge and am found guilty time after time what strength to I have to live free? What standing do I have to know that my petitions will be granted? There were none righteous, no not one (Rom. 3:10); therefore, no one could know that their prayers, requests, and needs would be met. Everyone came to God based upon mercy and pity. **No one could know or have confidence in their relationship to God (I John 5:14, 15).**

In fact, everyone was cursed because no one could keep the whole law:

Ga 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.**"

Faith Is Based Upon What God Has Done

Faith cannot be lived in where the Word of God cannot be stood upon. How could anyone stand upon God's word under the law? No one could keep it so everyone was cursed. God worked and provided miracles, healings, deliverance, for the people based upon mercy and pity. He gave them promises that could sustain them until the day when He made our standing in Him legal! When Jesus finishes the work of the atonement and takes away the hand writing against all of us (Col. 2:13), then faith could be entered into.

Faith cannot be lived to when the author and source of it is separated from us. God is the God of faith; His very nature is faith. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). Without Jesus is there is no faith! In the old covenant no one could be born again and have Christ in them; therefore, no one could live by faith. **If we cannot know the Word of God (Jesus) we have nothing to have faith in.**

Faith comes of age and is engaged only when the Word of God (Jesus) is known (Rom. 10:17). The Old Testament people live by hope and were under the tutelage of the law (Gal. 3:24). New Testament born again people live by faith in the finished work of the cross. We are born into a new kingdom that is based on faith in His grace! Most important to all of this is that we are no longer separated from God but have a personal relationship with Him. Consequently, we now can live by faith, in faith, know the source of our faith, and be grace minded!

The Old Testament spoke of the way, the truth, and the life for all the unrighteous by referring to the time of faith—***the just shall live by faith!*** The problem was that no one could have a relationship with God

because of sin and transgressions. There was no helper and no comforter because all were separated from God's love.

The New Testament has provided the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except by Christ (John 14:6). In Christ Jesus is the **faith life** that makes us just before God (Heb. 7:25). There is no faith outside of Jesus. Jesus is our faith; He brings us the gift of faith. He is our life, our peace, our rest, and our faith!

Faith Was Unavailable!

It is like the time before electricity when everything was dark and all power was human labor or on beasts of burden. When electricity is discovered and harnessed our whole world changed. We have electric lights, appliances, heating, communications, transportation, etc.; **we are using a power not our own**. We employ it, we engage it, and we operate in it; before it was revealed everything was so much **harder**. It is also like the gas combustion engine that is used to power the world. From airplanes and cars to all kinds of motors to operate machines, these are used to do work that once was relegated to physical labor. Before the gas powered engine life was ***much harder!***

Faith was unavailable because **Christ** was unavailable. At the core of faith **is knowing** God's Word and will. Moreover it is the specific Word of God that has been fulfilled and accomplished **in Christ**. Under the law we were servants, slaves, and prisoners of sin. We had no standing in God but were outcasts, aliens, and separated from life itself. In this position we could not know God nor **have confidence** in the things of God. We were uncertain, afraid, full of fear, and the best we could muster was hope in God's mercy.

In the **new creation** we have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear son (Col. 1:13)! The kingdom of darkness is a kingdom without faith. It is ignorance, unbelief, blinded by pride, lost in worldly wisdom, and bound to naturalism. No one could know they were right with God and stand in His truth.

De 32:20 And He said: **'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith.**

In the new creation we are in a new kingdom. This new kingdom is based in grace that has been completed through the salvation work of Jesus. This grace is a complete restoration of that which had been lost in the fall. We are reconnected and restored to complete faith. Faith knows God's word and will. Faith stands in His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Faith asserts God's grace and truth. Faith is the substance of that which is unseen to naturalism (Heb. 11:1). Faith is the legal position of being made a son or daughter of God. Faith sees spiritually and embraces all that God has made us in Christ. **Faith sees Jesus!** When we see Jesus in all His grace towards us; God sees us in faith!

II Cor. 3:18 **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

1 Therefore, **since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.**

God's grace has placed us in His family through the work of Christ; our faith responds to the truth of our salvation and stands it it—that is faith!

There was no place to stand in the Old situation because the promises to them about our salvation **had not taken place**. In the New situation the promises have been fulfilled and as we stand in the accomplished work of Christ we are in faith! **They were looking for help and mercy; we have received help and mercy in Jesus.**

What Is This Faith Walk?

What is the faith life? It is to embrace the **ministry of the Holy Spirit** to transform us into the same image of Christ from glory to glory. It is to think, speak, and act according to the new creation and deny the old. It is to see spiritually over against the physical circumstances. **Faith is the**

only way we can communicate with God! It takes faith to receive Him, hear Him, stand in Him, and commune with Him. **Faith is our channel of blessing to the heart of God.**

Faith sees what the natural eyes cannot see. Faith hears what the natural ears cannot hear. Faith knows what the natural mind cannot receive, discern or grasp.

The greatest blessing of faith is our relationship to Jesus. Faith is how we heard the gospel and responded. Faith knows the Lord and that we are born again giving us peace and rest. We know we are saved; we know where we are going! The natural mind thinks that naturalism is to our advantage; however, nothing could be further from the truth.

Naturalism is blinded, confused, and misguided. Naturalism is bound to **natural phenomenon**. It believes only what the senses can determine. The truth is that naturalism is hindered, **limited**, and easily deceived. Naturalism's truth is solely material and when it comes to the unseen things it is a guess at best. Naturalism cannot perceive spiritual things; it cannot see the unseen (II Cor. 2:14).

Faith Knows And Is To Our Advantage!

Faith sees and knows the truth **through our relationship** to Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Faith is supernatural and takes in the eternal things of God. It believes all things and receives from the Spirit wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification (I Cor. 1:30). Faith brings us into the Almighty presence, nature, and wisdom of God. Faith connects us to the divine nature of God (II Pet. 1:4). Faith perceives, discerns, and acknowledges the realities of God's Spirit world.

Jesus said,

Joh 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: **It is to your advantage that I go away**; for if I do not go away, **the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**

The Helper is the Holy Spirit which is the ***Spirit of Christ!*** Jesus in physical form could not be distributed to every human heart. He was limited in time and space as far as coming into our hearts; however, because He came and offered Himself a ransom for many, the Helper could make us born again! **When we became born again we were born into the same nature of the divine Son of God.** We have the same Spirit to do the same things for the same purposes! **When we received Jesus as Lord we received something that no one in the Old Testament period could receive!** *We received faith* that produced in us peace and rest. We know God and in knowing Him we do so through faith!

Faith is to our advantage otherwise we would still be lost in our transgressions, blinded by our pride, ignorant of spiritual truth, and separated from Christ.

Faith is to our advantage because we draw upon the divine nature. We get to know the truth and it sets us free (John 8:32)! We get to live by faith (knowing God's will; knowing God's word) in Jesus. We get to know that we know and that removes fears, worry, anxiety, stress, and frustration (I John 4:18). We get to be empowered by the knowledge of the truth. **We get to see what God sees and do what God's word tells us we can do—we get to us God's stuff including His faith!**

What is it that we can do? Faith has placed us in Christ and God's grace. Grace is what God has done to take away our sin, give us authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19), and commissioned us to do the same works that Christ did (John 14:12). We can stand on the finished work of Christ. We have His name, His peace, His life, and His faith (Gal. 2:20). We have legal standing so that we have the right to speak in Jesus' name. We are His bride and called by His name; therefore, we rule and reign in life over the curse, the fall, and the demonic (Rom. 5:17).

There can be no faith without what God has done! We don't exercise faith to get God to move; He's already moved we use faith to move us with Him! We alien ourselves and command the fallen circumstances, symptoms, and rebellious facts to get line with God's will. Faith has

made us legal, right with God, and bestowed in us the ability of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Faith has accepted, embraced, and acknowledged everything good that is in us because of Jesus (Philemon 1:6). Faith in His grace already provided, decided, and declared on our behalf, makes us bold, confident, convinced, and assertive of God's glory in us.

We enter into resurrection life in His grace by faith; this faith is God's gift to us through Jesus. **He is the source, continuance, and center of our faith. We have faith because we have Jesus.** When we see Jesus and act with Him from within, God sees us in faith!

