



The Word of Life

E-Mail Newsletter Bringing The Word of Life

"... that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

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*My hope is built in
nothing less
Than Jesus' blood
and righteousness:
I dare not trust the
sweetest frame:
But wholly lean on
Jesus' name.*

*On Christ the solid
rock I stand,
All other ground is
sinking sand.*



FACT, FAITH, and FEELING

Text: Acts 8:26-40

Introduction: These three words stand for three most important issues in our spiritual life. We all have to deal with them in one form or another, but it is above all things necessary that we should place them in the right order.

1. FACT (Acts 8:32-33 quoted Isa. 53:7-8)

Fact is truth. Six hundred years ago people believed that the earth is not round but rather flat. Then in 1492 Italian explorer Christopher Columbus proved otherwise. However, many in Columbus' time still felt and believed earth was flat!

A. It is a fact that God loves us with a great love (**I John 3:1; 4:10**) even though most people don't believe it.

B. It is a fact that Christ suffered for sins that he might bring us to God (**I Pet. 2:24**).

C. It is a fact that the moment a repentant sinner trusts in Jesus Christ, he is instantly born into God's spiritual family and becomes a son of God forever (**John 1:12**).

D. It is a fact that we can know for sure right now that we HAVE eternal life through Jesus Christ (**I John 5:13**).

E. It is a fact that in Jesus Christ we are forever safe and secured eternally (**John 10:27-28**).

F. It is a fact that we have an inheritance reserved for us in heaven (**I Pet 1:3-4**) – a mansion and a new body (**John 14:2; Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:51-53**).

2. FAITH (Acts 8:36-37)

Faith is more than Belief (**Jas. 2:19**). In belief we know information about a person but in faith we cast our full trust and confidence upon that person. We must not merely believe ABOUT Christ only but IN Him personally!

A. By faith in Christ we are made the children of God (**Gal. 3:26; Rom. 8:16**). Not by faith ABOUT Christ but by faith IN Christ! Faith is a personal confidence & trust in Him.

B. A faith that is accompanied by repentance and turns towards Christ is the right kind of faith (**Acts 20:21**).

C. Real faith may not always be initially accompanied by outward expression of joy. It is not a good idea to ask a person how he feels after receiving Christ for then you are actually encouraging him to trust in unstable feelings.

D. Real faith subsequently bears fruit in legitimate feelings (**Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 5:1**). Why does the branch bear fruit? It cannot help it, because the life-forces are

He that believeth
on the Son **hath**
everlasting life:
and he that
believeth not the
Son shall not see
life; but the wrath
of God abideth on
him.
John 3:36

ever flowing up from the root. But it takes some time and fruit-bearing is not instant. You may not feel faith just as you don't feel you're growing and aging but faith is there!

E. A Christian ought to be **SAFE, SURE & SATISFIED**. Some of you are **SAFE**—you have trusted Christ. But some of are not really **SURE**! Why? Because you don't believe exactly what He said! What you must do is by faith; rest your soul upon God and His holy word which are absolutely reliable!

F. Now some of you may be **SAFE** and **SURE** but not **SATISFIED**! Some still enjoy worldly pleasures to make them happy and comfortable. Some still have their affections and hope on things below which should not be (**Col. 3:1-3**).

3. FEELING (Acts 8:39)

A. Our feelings are deceptive because they are based from external factors (**Jer.17:9**). They are affected by the changing state of finances, weather, environment, problems at home and work, or the sickness and death of loved ones.

B. The presence of bad feelings and the lack of good feelings do not always indicate that we are sinning or out of God's will. God sometimes cuts off our source of security and allows us to be deprived temporarily so He may know what is in our hearts; whether we love Him for Who He is.

C. Feeling is a fruit of salvation not its basis. You'll feel good when you **LIVE** and **SERVE** God for His glory & honor!

CONCLUSION - Never forget these relationships

1. FACT	You are saved when you trusted Jesus Christ
2. FAITH	You know you were saved when you believed God's absolute word to be true and faithful
3. FEELING	You will truly have the right kind of emotions when you have done what God have told you to do.

Remember! A real Christian is not just supposed to FEEL GOOD in himself but rather DO GOOD for God's glory!

Forever, O Lord,
thy word is settled
in heaven.
Psalms 119:89

Feelings come and feeling go,
And feelings are deceiving.
My warrant is the Word of God:
Naught else is worth believing.

Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet taken,
There is one greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.

I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever:
For, though all things shall pass away,
His Word shall stand forever.
Martin Luther

You're writing a gospel, a chapter a day

By deeds that you do and words that you say.

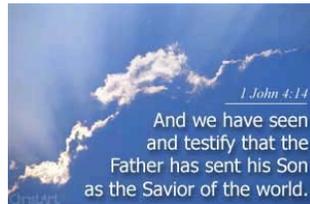
Men read what you write, whether false or true.

What is the gospel according to you?

Anon.

Point to Ponder If you resolve to make sense and feeling the judge of your conditions, you must resolve to live in fears and lie down in tears. *Thomas Brooks*

We Have A Debt To Pay



Some people have suggested that all a person needs to do is sincerely reform, do better in the future, and thus live down past shortcomings. This is supposed to make one fit for heaven. But will this work?

Let us assume that the manager of a business goes to his accountant and finds that his company owed \$50 000 to the manufacturers and other merchants. He says, "Write letters to all those people and tell them that we are not going to trouble about the past, that we have turned over new pages in our ledger, but we promise to pay 100 cents on the dollar in all future businesses, and from now on to live up to the highest standard of business integrity."

The accountant would think his employer had gone mad, and would refuse to put such a proposition to the creditors. Yet thousands of otherwise sensible people are trying to get to heaven by just such a proposal, offering to meet their obligations towards God for the future, but refusing to worry about the past at all. Yet in Ecclesiastes 3:15, we read, "God requireth that which is past". Even if we assume that we can somehow begin to live an absolutely perfect life – which is no better than what we ought to do, but which is certainly impossible for us – we are still sinners.



Jesus Paid It All

God's righteousness demands that no past account be considered settled until it has been paid to the last penny and every claim of justice met. The murderer may cover his son and live the life of a model citizen for 10 years after his crime, but when he is discovered, man's law condemns him to death. Though he has murdered no one for 10 long years – it judges him still a murderer.

To hide past sin, either thoughts, words or deeds, by what seems to be an absolutely perfect life, still leaves us sinners in the sight of Him to whom the past and the future are as open as the present. According to God's standard of holiness, we all have sinned, and we must bring that sin out in the open and have it dealt with righteously.

We each need someone who can clear the books. The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is the only One who could pay his penalty. "We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son" (Romans 5:10). Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ gave up His life in place of ours that we might go free. Our past sin is paid for, and God, against whom we have sinned, has given us His receipt showing His satisfaction with the completed work of Christ on the cross in that He raised Him from the dead. Christ once crucified is now our living Saviour. He died to save us from the penalty of sin and now He lives to deliver us from the power of sin.

It is finished

When you receive from Christ His righteousness, like a wedding garment, it is perfect and complete. You cannot add to it your own righteousness which is as filthy rags.

"But I can't see it," said a certain cabinetmaker, as a friend tried to explain this to



Can you trust God's word?

*But the Word of the
Lord endureth.*

*Forever. And this is
the word which by
the gospel is
preached unto you.*

1 Peter 1: 25

him. At last, an idea came to his friend, who, lifting a plane made as though he would plane the top of a beautifully polished table that stood near.

"Stop!" cried the cabinetmaker. "Don't you see that's finished? You'll simply ruin it if you use that plane on it!"

"Why," replied his friend, "that's just what I have been trying to show you about Christ's work of redemption. It was finished when He gave His life for you, and if you try to add to that finished work you can only spoil it. Just accept it as it stands – His life for yours and you go free. Like a flash the cabinetmaker saw it and received Jesus Christ into his life as his Saviour.

For the 'Final Storm' - make sure you're Sure



One day I was driving with an elderly gentleman, and I asked him a very personal question.

"Do you have peace with God?" I asked.

The gentleman was rather startled, and he said to me, "I have tried for years to answer that question, but I just cannot find anyone to tell me how to be sure. I need to know if I am saved, or else know that it is hopeless to seek to be sure of it."

"What kind of answer are you looking for?" I inquired.

"Well, that's what puzzles me. I want a definite witness, something I cannot be mistaken about. Some folks tell me they felt some powerful change when they got religion. I have been seeking that for years, but it has always eluded me."

"Getting religion is one thing, but trusting Christ is quite another. Suppose you were seeking salvation, and suddenly there came to you a very happy feeling; would you be sure then that you were saved?"

"Well, I think I would."

"Then, suppose you went through life resting on your happy experience. Then comes the hour of death. Imagine Satan telling you that you were lost and beyond hope. Would you tell him that you knew all was well because you had a happy emotional experience years before?"

"I see it now," he answered thoughtfully. "A happy feeling is not enough."

I followed quickly with the question, "What would be enough?"

"If I could get some definite word in a vision or a message from an angel, then I could be sure."

"Suppose you had a vision of a glorious angel, and he told you that your sins were forgiven.

Would that really be enough to rest on?"

"Yes, I think it would. An angel should be right."

"But suppose you were dying and Satan came and said, 'I was that angel. I transformed myself to deceive you. Now you are where I want you.' What then could you say?"

He pondered a moment or two, and then with wrinkled brow replied, "I see, you are right.

The word of an angel won't do."

"But now," I said, "God has given something better than happy feelings, something more dependable than the voice of an angel. He has given you His Son, who died for your sins and rose again. He has testified in His own unalterable Word that if you trust in Him all your sins are gone. Listen to this: 'To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins' (Acts 10:43)."

Opening my Bible, I said, "Listen to this verse, 'These things have I written unto

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you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life' (1 John 5:13).

"Are these words addressed to you? Do you believe on the Name of the Son of God?" I asked.

"Yes I do. I do indeed. I know He is the Son of God. I know He died for me."

"Then see what He tells us, 'Ye may know that ye have eternal life.' Is this not enough to rest upon? It is a letter from heaven directed expressly to you. How can you refuse to accept what God has told you? Can you not believe Him? Is He not more to be depended upon than an angel or happy feelings?"

"Will you not bow your head now and tell God you will be saved on His terms by coming to Him as a repentant sinner and trusting His Word concerning His blessed Son?"

The gentleman closed his eyes, and I saw he was deeply stirred. His lips were moving in prayer. Suddenly he looked up and exclaimed, "It's all clear now. This is what I have wanted for years."

That evening in front of the audience that had come to hear me preach, he told this story. What he had sought in vain for half a lifetime he found when he believed the message of God's Word about what Jesus had done to save sinners. His was the full assurance of faith. (Harold Smith)