

Faith

by A. G. Freed

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for" (Heb. 11:1).

Faith is the bed-rock. Two easy Latin words define it -- **sub stare**, to stand under. It is the foundation "of things hoped for."

Its Source

Is the word of God. Peter said: *"The Gentile by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe"* (Acts 15:7). *"So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). Where God has not spoken there can be no faith.

Kinds Of Faith

To lessen the force of these scriptures some say that this is an historical, or evangelical faith, and not a saving faith. But the divine writer says, *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book: but these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name"* (John 20:30, 31).

Call it by whatever name you may, "historical faith" or "evangelical," the faith that comes from *"these are written"* gives *"life through his name."* It must then be a "saving faith." That is enough.

The Fatal Error

Is here made. We often hear the expressions: "I believe that God, in some way unknown to me, will save the heathen," and "I believe the pious unimmersed will be saved." The length, breadth, the height, and the depth of faith is a full measure of testimony. Where the word of God begins our faith may begin. Where his word ends our faith must end. When we say "I believe" this or that in the divine realm, we obligate ourselves as high as heaven, as deep as the unseen, to show that God has spoken it.

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pp. 67-68

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