

# Do You Trust God or Just Believe in Him?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Luke 18:1-8 - An interesting question: "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"
  - 1. The Lord's question requires us to look at something that makes Christians uncomfortable, praying with conviction
  - 2. In other words, can one believe in God's existence without believing or trusting Him?
- B. Christians live on the frontlines of a spiritual war - Eph. 6:11-12
  - 1. We are warned to stay vigilant against our Adversary - 1Peter 5:8-9
  - 2. He has had considerable success:
    - a. God is increasingly banished from public life.
    - b. Religious people are increasingly hesitant to express their faith
    - c. The Adversary has filled churches with people who have no faith
      - 1) 2Tim. 3:1-5

## I. NOT EVERYTHING CALLED FAITH IS FAITH

- A. Anyone can speak highly of Jesus but have little or no faith.
  - 1. John 3:1-2 - Nicodemus came to Jesus at night to avoid being seen.
  - 2. John 19:4-6 - Pilate found Jesus innocent and sentenced Him to death
  - 3. John 7:32, 45-48 - The temple guards believed Jesus to be a great teacher, but later arrested Him in the Garden
  - 4. Matt. 8:26, 14:31, 16:8 - The apostles believed in Jesus, but they did not believe Jesus
- B. Anyone can lead an apparently moral life without true faith
  - 1. Luke 18:9-14 - The Pharisees didn't do sinful things common in their culture. They did good works
  - 2. Luke 18:18-34 - The rich young ruler kept the Ten Commandments.
- C. Anyone can get excited over worship and religious works without true faith
  - 1. Mark 4:16-17 - The seed sprouted on rocky soil and among the thorns, but did not survive over time
  - 2. Act 5:1-11 - Ananias and Sapphira had enough faith to sell their property and give to the poor, but not enough to be honest.
- D. Anyone can have great sorrow over sin without true faith
  - 1. Matt. 27:3 - Judas regretted betraying Jesus and returned the money
- E. Anyone can be baptized and active in a local church but not have true faith.
  - 1. Acts 8:13, 20-21 - Simon the sorcerer was baptized, but still thought, spoke, and acted materialistically and worldly.
- F. Anyone can actively serve God but have no true, saving faith.
  - 1. Matt. 7:21-23 - They did things others could not do. (miracles, et al)
- G. Religious people do not always have true faith.
  - 1. When Satan persuades people to settle for less than true faith, he wins.
  - 2. He can do it, even with elders - Acts 20:28-30

## II. TRUE FAITH TRUSTS GOD

- A. It doesn't merely believe in God; true faith is the conviction that God will keep His every word, it and labors trustingly to meet every condition God has set upon His promises
- B. True faith and trust always begin in the heart of the believer.
  - 1. He doesn't work his way into believing; he believes his way into working
  - 2. He unselfconsciously declares his sin and his need for God to save him
    - a. Psalm 51:9-10, 17, 19
  - 3. Those without true faith and trust from the heart cannot discuss their sins objectively. "I know I'm not perfect, but..."
    - a. 2Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:13; 1John 1:9
- C. True faith and trust in God will never attempt to justify the self and blame God or others for his sins - Psalm 51:3-4; Luke 5:8
- D. True faith and trust always bow to God's sovereignty - Psalm 51:10
  - 1. We must ask God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
  - 2. It seems to be our nature to want to control our own lives, making it difficult to surrender control to anyone, even God.
- E. True faith and trust in God depend on Jesus alone for salvation
  - 1. Rev. 2:10; 2John 9
  - 2. Some think it is necessary to add something of their own to the mix
    - a. Be good enough; show God how much better we are than others
    - b. Be more devout; I read every day, pray three times daily, attend all of the church services
- F. True faith and trust transform the believer; it does not try to transform the faith to fit the believer
  - 1. Col. 3:9-10; Rom. 1:16-17, 10:17; 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:3-4
  - 2. True faith and trust make us into the sons of God bearing the visible and invisible image of God in this world.