Subject: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Sun, 07 Feb 2010 22:08:48 GMT
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Well we all know that right? Well here is a new take!

I get Christianity Today magazine. Mostly because I like to keep up with the news in the xian world. It can be rather dry but for a non- charismatic mag it hasn't been bad. Over the yrs there have some very deep well written full of meat articles. I haven't seen one for some time though. Which brings me to the latest issue.

Entitled "There's power in the Blood"

sub titled " On the heels of the Twilight Saga's success, Christian novelists are tapping the riches of vampire mythology"

Yes you read that right. "Christian" and "Vampire" in the same sentence. It gets worse. There were a number of individuals quoted in the article. Authors, theology professors, publishing exec. editors etc. Here are some quotes

[I]"BFJ a theology Prof at Wheaton and author of Touched by a Vampire: Discovering the Hidden Messages in the Twilight Saga believes Meyers series is so popular because its romance resonates with readers desire for radical love . . . The idea of achieving immorality through blood is central to both traditions" . . . "Vampire legends are rich with Christian symbols"

"Thomas Nelson was one of the first (xian)publishers to revisit the parallels between Christian thought and vampire myth" . . . "evil vampires who crave the blood of Christian believers yet know it will destroy them"

"AA senior vice pres of Thomas Nelson fiction was on board from the begining . . . the story of xianity is one of redemption
 . . . xian fiction should depict that regardless of subject matter"

"As to the xian communitys reaction . . . (author Wilson said) the brave try it first and then word of mouth brings in the curious."

"Xian novelist Tracey Bateman's own Vampire themed book . . . I knew writing a Christian vampire themed novel was going to be tricky. But what greater message is there than a creature ravaged by sin . . . finding redemption . . . and how fitting that redemption comes by way of blood"

"Shannon Marchese, senior editor . . . at Waterbrook says . . . Xians who have followed vamnpire

stories . . . have been fascinated by the powerful theme of seperation from God running through these stories"

(Author and recently saved - my note here) Ann "Rice thinks the worry over vampire fantasies is overblown" . . . in other words the myth is very compatible with xian ideas. . . The real evils in this world are not vampires Rice says . They are hunger injustice . . . Vampire stories are a relatively safe way to explore human nature.

In recent yrs I have heard men (Chuck Colson and others) on xian radio saying there is nothing wrong with Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. God help us.

I believe that as a "group" not individuals a "group" the charismatic and evangelical churches are going to follow the antichrist. Because they don't know any better and they have leaders who have no clue which way is up spiritually. I sincerely hope I'm wrong. This article was in the premier xian magazine in the evangelical world. Everything I quoted above was written by xians. God help us.

Revelation 18/4 Just prior to the judgement of Babylon at the very end of time we have God calling his people out of the apostate church. What on earth are they doing there? The article above shows one reason why. Because they simply don't know any better. Because they have leaders who in this area are just brute beasts & dumb dogs who cannot bark.

Some time ago the Lord gave me a vision of a particular senior charismatic minister and leader of a very popular meeting (in a big city north of the US border shall we say) It was very well known for its great annointing.

I saw the senior leader of the group on that day standing in front of Jesus weeping and crying because he saw that because he a xian minister did not take heed to the scriptures but followed the supernatural multitudes came through his meetings and picked up deceiving spirits and in the very end of time when discernment was absolutely critical it reached out its hand covered their eyes and they ended up taking the mark of the beast and walking out of Jesus Kingdom. It was his fault and he knew it. How absolutely tragic

That seems to apply to articles like this as well.

Lastly the mag has recently undertaken an appeal for funds because of declining revenue. Probably any xian mag sees its focus as being the Lord and ministry its intent to some degree at least. With articles like this it is not difficult for me to understand why their funds are drying up.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Sun, 07 Feb 2010 23:05:59 GMT

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That they would entitle the article "There's Power in the Blood" when writting about vampire stories and movies shows the lack of reverence for God and is an abomination. It would be wrong in a movie review magazine, but in a Christian publication?

Mark wrote, "brute beast and dumb dogs who cannot bark "... Amen!

If there's anything that surprises me(and there's not much that does) it's the lack of discernment in The Body of Christ, across all the denominations, both Charismatic and nondenominational. Almost daily I encounter professing Christians who are taken in by the TV prophets and believe whatever they say...never taking the time to see if it lines up with The Word of God.

Just the way the writers worded the article shows the way Christianity has embraced the world and it's ways. One wrote, "Xians who have followed vampire stories"...Never pausing to consider the source, and who is behind it, Satan. Christians following vampire stories? Harry Potter? Occult and Satanic movies and books about demonic powers of darkness...Where's The Holy Spirit within Christians convicting them and leading them? I think many don't have The Holy Spirit,(that think they do) and are lead by the spirit of this world.

Thanks for speaking out Mark...We're in the end times, things are going to get a lot worse before Jesus returns. Coming out from among them and being separate has never seemed so important as it does today.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 16 Nov 2012 22:54:08 GMT
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Just curious...

What exactly do you find wrong with Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Sat, 17 Nov 2012 03:45:40 GMT

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Hi Tom,

I can't answer for Mark or James and I certainly cannot answer your direct question because I'm not up on fiction of any sort, but an easier question might be phrased: what does one find "good" about Harry Potter/Lord of the Rings?

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Sat, 17 Nov 2012 08:42:57 GMT
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Hello William...

I realize that Mark L wrote this years ago but I assumed he would still be able/interested to continue this discussion.

Am I to understand that Mark L will not be responding to my inquiry about his comment: "God help us" if Christians think there is nothing wrong with Harry Potter or The Lord Of The Rings?

Is Mark L no longer here (in either meaning)?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Sat, 17 Nov 2012 14:34:15 GMT
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I'm pretty sure that Mark will answer you when he gets time and James will probably jump in as well. It's an old thread but I don't think the movies/books have been edited, nor do I think that their views concerning the occult have changed.

Of course I'm assuming that the issue in question is the growing acceptance (by Christians) of things that were once considered detrimental to the Christian faith?

The seemingly inevitable decline of standards, whether it is in the realm of the occult, morality, or just plain old brotherly love, has been a consistent theme as long as I can remember.

Broadly considered, the theme can be seen throughout the Bible. Mankind quickly declined in standards from the fall of Adam to the flood, and Israel's downward spiral (sandwiched between bouts of repentance) is routinely documented.

We see this tendency in the Church as well. In almost every age and by almost every group there are things analogous to the situation found in the letter to the Laodicean Church. Be hot or be cold, but don't be apathetic!

Warnings against lukewarmness should be an ever-present theme --especially as we see that day approaching!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Sat, 17 Nov 2012 15:03:53 GMT
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Hello Tom.

Welcome to OvercomersOnline, Mark is still 'here'(I think, though we haven't heard from him in a while).

I don't speak for him or anyone besides myself but concerning the popular books/movies Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings I agree with him. If a Christian doesn't have the grounding in God's Word and discernment to to recognize 'what's wrong with' these fictional stories and who is being glorified in them(Satan/witchcraft) and the not so subtle attempt by the god of this world to draw in millions of people, from children to adults, to thinking..."hey it's harmless, just a little 'white magic'"; "the occult isn't really so bad, just look at sweet little ole Harry"(ya know, the good kind of magic, NOT!) then I agree, God help them.
So without knowing you or anything about you if you are asking for answers that you sincerely seek I'd suggest you do a Google search or it to get some background info and ask The Lord for wisdom and discernment on what is wrong with these type books and movies. If you're asking to

be provocative and defend Harry, then you're probably not going to find anyone interested in going down that trail.

Hopefully you're seeking truth and if so God bless you and may He open your eyes and heart to receive it.

james

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sun, 18 Nov 2012 02:34:59 GMT
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Don't even go there.....Praying for anyone involved in the occult in any way, shape, or form.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Sun, 18 Nov 2012 05:31:58 GMT
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Hello GWB...

To whom are you addressing your warning?

Surely you aren't suggesting that Christians should not pray for sinners or our brothers and sisters in Jesus who have strayed from the truth, are in error or deluded by false teachers?

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Brethren, if any of you wander away from the truth, and one bring him back; let him know, that he which brings back the sinner from his straying, delusion, error shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. James 5:16,19,20

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sun, 18 Nov 2012 08:59:12 GMT

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Hmmmm....I am not sure I understand where you are coming from.

I am/will pray for anyone in the occult to be saved or delivered.

I will not have anything that even smells the occult in my house, my kid's houses, let alone my grandchildren being involved in this abomination. We have to discern cartoons and toys. "We don't play magic." No, that is not going too far.

You must be new here.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Sun, 18 Nov 2012 23:58:37 GMT
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Yup I'm still here. I just saw this. Give me a few days and I'll respond.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Tue, 20 Nov 2012 15:44:05 GMT
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Just a follow up comment, I was reading Charisma Magazine online (Yeah! I asked myself the same question, WHY?) and they had an article concerning the Twilight vampire books/movies/tv shows where the writer mentioned that a youth minister somewhere doesn't 'denounce' the series but uses it as a tool in ministry???She wrote a book titled, "Escaping the Vampire"...

I read also that the author of the books received the 'idea' for the books from a dream she had in 2003 in which a young boy was in love with a human girl and was having a hard time resisting drinking her blood. She said that afterwards she 'FELT COMPELLED" to start writing the story. Later she says that the 'boy', came to her in another dream and told her she'd gotten it wrong in the first book and so she continued the series.

Hello? Anyone not able to see that that was a demonic dream from satan with the purpose of doing exactly what it has done, captured the interest and passions of millions of people, especially young people, deceiving them into believing that all this 'dark side' stuff is cool and romantic. So what do Christians do to counter-attack satan's wiles? To warn others? Most do as the rest of the world does, tune in to watch or buy the books and read...

So what's really WRONG with Harry Potter, Vampires/Werewolves/Magic/Occult books and

movies? They're antichrist, and giving glory and worship to the god of this world and of darkness, Satan. For those who can't and don't see this my prayer is for their eyes and hearts to be opened to the God of ALL, to Jesus Christ and the LIGHT of The Gospel, to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, to be set free from the bondage of Satan and his various entrapments.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Tue, 20 Nov 2012 16:09:15 GMT
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I absolutely agree, James. I think all of the Harry Potter books, let alone the vampire occult themed books, should be collected and burned, period.

I have no tolerance for the occult whatsoever. There is no grey area. The occult is the occult. Stay away!

Also, TEACH the church to do the same!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 03:40:02 GMT
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Quote:So what's really WRONG with Harry Potter, Vampires/Werewolves/Magic/Occult books and movies? They're antichrist, and giving glory and worship to the god of this world and of darkness, Satan. For those who can't and don't see this my prayer is for their eyes and hearts to be opened to the God of ALL, to Jesus Christ and the LIGHT of The Gospel, to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, to be set free from the bondage of Satan and his various entrapments.

Preach it, James!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 04:29:39 GMT
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GWB wrote:
Quote:I have no tolerance for the occult whatsoever. There is no grey area. The occult is the occult. Stay away!

Since I love to pick at sores... (sick, I know! <grin>) what do you think about voting for a person

who represents one of the biggest cults in America? <grin>

I know you didn't say WHO you voted for and I've already said that "I couldn't care less" whether one votes or not so this isn't personal.

btw, I find myself using that phrase a lot and feel that I should clarify that it doesn't mean that I have no interest in determining "why" a person votes... I do, but I'm steadfastly against forcing anyone into some sort of compliance rule.

There could be many reasons a person votes. Maybe he/she is (editorially speaking) your brother or sister. Maybe God told you to vote. Maybe you got stuck on a bus with a crowd of people and because of the pushing and shoving you found yourself in front of a polling booth. Thinking it was the complaint department you filed a complaint!<grin> Perhaps it was a sense of citizenship that motivated the vote. Or maybe it was just the free beer and hot dogs... whatever the reason, the point is that people generally have one.

If your house burnt down, there would be a reason for it. You'd probably question the kids -- were they shooting fireworks at the roof? or playing with matches? You'd want to know why. You'd like to know if it was stupidity that ruled their thinking or if they had been reading over the insurance policy and logically deduced that the old house was worth more in ashes. At least you'd know whether you had a misguided genius on your hands or one that lacked common sense.

A reason, any reason, is better than no reason. If the reason is biblically based then all the better... if not then perhaps a biblical principle would apply? We all benefit from knowing why.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 05:35:51 GMT
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OOOOOO....OUCH....William! You got me! What in the world could I say to that!

Good points and touche!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 05:43:11 GMT

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Do I need deliverance?.....

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Wed, 21 Nov 2012 16:41:17 GMT
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Hey Tom. I will have a response for you on the weekend.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Sun, 25 Nov 2012 18:00:11 GMT
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Here is what I find wrong with Harry Potter. The whole book centers around witchcraft. Witchcraft and the occult are (to paraphrase someone) "condemned without reservation in the strongest possible terms all through the bible. Deut. 18/10-13

In the OT as part of the law they were commanded not to allow a witch to live. Ex 22/18 Surely God is as compassionate as we are.

It says clearly that the magicians of Egypt did miracles "by their enchantments" Ex. 7/10-13 11 Tim 3/8

Nahum 3/4 Nineveh was able to conquer her world through the use of witchcraft.

Is 47/9-15 Babylon. There is also another vs which speaks to Babylon's use of witchcraft to conquer but I can't find it off hand.

Rev 18/23 In the end of time the Antichrist will use enchantment and witchcraft to conquer the world.

Acts 8/9 Simon "betwitched" There is no reason not to take it literally.

There is much in the bible on this subject. All of it written from a perspective of reality. Not symbolism. Personally I have had dealings with both witches and wizards/warlocks involved in various kinds of witchcraft Wicca and satanism. As have others here.

Lord of the Rings is in the same genre. Filled with wizards and magic. As is much of the fantasy science fiction.

For whatever it is worth I want to go head to head with most of the christian world and say that christians should stay away from the Narnia chronicles. They are filled with magic and the occult. I don't care if they do preach a christian message. God doesn't do things that way.

Seeking to witchcraft or the supernatural of any kind other than prayer in Jesus name is to seek to the other kingdom and is a violation of the first commandment.

This stuff is condemned without reservation through the entire bible. And the reason is because it is so dangerous. I could speak at length on that but I'm not sure of your thoughts on the issue.

The issue here is that these books are not just kids books. Again I'm not sure of your thoughts here but these books (and others like them) are preparing the world for the coming of the antichrist. The last 50 yrs we have seen wave after wave of all kinds of this stuff coming into our western world. And all that has been a few little waves on the beach compared to the tsunami that is coming.

Please feel free to comment. All of us here welcome discussion even if we strongly disagree on a subject. If you don't feel comfortable speaking in public please feel free to email.

BTW I really liked your testimony/tract.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Mon, 26 Nov 2012 15:21:59 GMT
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Quote:For whatever it is worth I want to go head to head with most of the christian world and say that christians should stay away from the Narnia chronicles. They are filled with magic and the occult. I don't care if they do preach a christian message. God doesn't do things that way.

Interesting thoughts, Mark.

I can't comment because I've never read the stuff. I do know that C.S. Lewis is very popular in Christian circles though. I've been told that his books are pretty deep which may be true but it's all too intellectual for me to grasp.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Mon, 26 Nov 2012 19:12:53 GMT
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I've read several books by C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, and The Great Divorce) but I couldn't read The Chronicles of Narnia. One reason was it seemed childish to me and more importantly I don't care for fairy tales, fantasy, witches, and magic. I believe he and Tolkien(The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings) were close friends and both were know as 'Christian' authors and are accepted in 'Christian circles'. Lewis incorporated 'principles' into his 7 books about Narnia that can be found in the Bible, while mixing in mythological, fictional, characters that are into the occult and magic.

Christian litature? Not in my view...But hey! 2.1 billion people can't be wrong, can they? (it is said there are 2.1 billion christians in the world.)

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Tue, 27 Nov 2012 04:54:32 GMT
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I won't touch any of the above. Why do you need occult manifestations to preach the Gospel?

My Black Witch Satanic family member thinks this is hysterical. So does the Wiccan family member. They wonder why churches just don't form official covens!!!

Duhhhhhh!!!!!!

HEF always said CS Lewis was influenced by the occult.

THINK people!!!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Thu, 29 Nov 2012 21:19:47 GMT
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Sorry. When going over the previous post, it was way too "snotty."

I have been through so much with occult garbage. I deal with it on a spiritual level everyday in order for me and my family to survive.

This stuff is serious and powerful. It is not to be toyed with.

The influence seems inviting, at first; charming. It will ALWAYS stab you and yours in the back.

I strongly urge people to not compromise in this area. You don't want to learn the hard way.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Thu, 29 Nov 2012 22:02:56 GMT
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Also, our God reigns!!! The power of one atom of the Blood of Jesus explodes ALL hexes, spells, and curses in the whole universe!!!

Thank you, Jesus, for good teaching!!!

It ain't over 'til it's over!!!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Thu, 29 Nov 2012 23:02:51 GMT
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Preach it!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Fri, 30 Nov 2012 17:41:02 GMT
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GWB wrote on Thu, 29 November 2012 15:19I strongly urge people to not compromise in this area.

I don't think anyone here has compromised in this area, I think Tom (smoking flax) 'might' be the one exception, because he didn't continue with the conversation once we started answering him. (but maybe he's just not had time and will at some future time...) He never said where he stood concerning Harry Potter/ Lord of the Rings, he just asked Mark what exactly 'he' found wrong with those books/movies, maybe he just wanted to see if Mark had scriptural reasons or was just

throwing out an opinion...Irregardless, he got answered, hopefully the answers will enlighten someone reading this thread.

Yes! Our GOD does reign.

"Snotty" posts... Surely you meant, "Snooty" (additude of superiority; "pretentious".)

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Fri, 30 Nov 2012 23:43:46 GMT
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No, I meant snotty. I guess it is another term in our area meaning rude, arrogant, dimisssing, etc. I could use it with anyone in our area and they would know what I meant.

I will work on my vocabulary being more in tune with others for any area. If you did not know what it meant, it would sound wierd....snotty.....hmmmm.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sat, 01 Dec 2012 06:57:49 GMT
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hmmmmm.....I reallllly think smug is a better word!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Thu, 27 Dec 2012 00:43:30 GMT
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Is everyone finished?

Is there anything more you feel needs to added?

If so, now is the time to do it.

I will be reading everything that all of you have written.

I have been indisposed for some time now, but I will try to clarify the point that I was hoping to

make.

GWB what is your name please?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Thu, 27 Dec 2012 06:02:52 GMT
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My name is Gillyann.

This is a forum. We are never done.

I am glad you are going to read everything. You will be very busy.

I am glad you are going to make your point.

Harry Potter is so occult, that it really is not funny if someone feels it is not.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Thu, 27 Dec 2012 09:27:31 GMT
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A_Smoking_Flax wrote on Wed, 26 December 2012 18:43Is everyone finished?

Is there anything more you feel needs to added?

If so, now is the time to do it.

I will be reading everything that all of you have written.

I have been indisposed for some time now, but I will try to clarify the point that I was hoping to make.

Tom

I did not get to throw in my two cents worth!

Harry Potter encourages children to pursue the black arts. Every book written is pointing to the occult and how it is "cool" if you use these black occult powers.

I have never read one page from any of the books but have heard enough to be convinced it was inspired by the devil.

As for the other writers I can see where writing about the occult would be a great money maker and it sells books.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Thu, 27 Dec 2012 15:51:41 GMT
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A_Smoking_Flax wrote on Wed, 26 December 2012 18:43"...but I will try to clarify the point that I was hoping to make."
Tom

Looking forward to your comments Tom, I was hoping you had a purpose in asking the question as you did...I'm sure we could all 'add' to the conversation, knowledge and discernment concerning the occult isn't always reduced to a neat, compact answer. If you have futher specific questions or comments feel free to share away.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Mon, 31 Dec 2012 23:37:14 GMT
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OK...

I hope that everyone has read my testimony "How I Met The God Of The Bible". It should help you to see how I came to my position of trust in God only. Psalm 118:8,9

These next questions may seem to be off topic, but they are vital to my understanding of your perspective. 2Cor 13:5a

Define faith.

Define grace.

The reason I ask these basic questions is:
I don't want to assume anything.
I want to be sure that I understand what you believe from your own words, and not my imagination.

This brings me to something I believe is paramount to any exchange of ideas between people.

The problem is well expressed by this saying:

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said. BUT... I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."

This introduction of a newspaper article states it another way:

"People only hear half of what's said. Statistics say everyone we talk to hardly hears half of what we say."

When I was attending a group that followed Hobart E. Freeman's teachings, a friend of mine (also a follower of HEF) called me about a fellow overcomer who went to a doctor (he had bloody stools). This person asked me what I thought of the situation; and without waiting even one second for my answer, he proceeded to tell me what he thought I thought about the situation; and then, continued, without interruption, to tell me what was wrong with what he thought I thought about the situation; and again, without any interruption or even a single syllable uttered by me throughout the whole "conversation", he ended his monologue by complaining that I wouldn't let him get a word in edgewise. When this person finally stopped talking I told him: "You just called me and asked me what I thought about this; then you told me what you thought I thought about this; then you told me what was wrong with what you thought I thought; and then you told me that you couldn't get a word in edgewise, and I haven't said one word to you until now." His response was total silence. He did not say he was sorry for putting words into my mouth and criticizing me for something I never said. Neither did he ask me what I actually thought about the situation: he

was not interested at all in what I had to say about it.
(That was more than twenty years ago, this person still "communicates" in this manner.)

I have found that most people are incapable of having a real conversation; because they are not interested in understanding what the other person is actually saying.

Jumping to conclusions, inferring bad motives, misconstruing, and getting upset by something that the other person never said or meant is how many people choose to "communicate."
There is a very simple wayâ€”for anyone who actually wants to communicateâ€”to avoid these all too common pitfalls:

Before assuming ANYTHING about what someone is saying ask them this simple question:
What do you mean by what you said?

To understand each other should be the prerequisite of any communication.

If all parties involved in a conversation respect each other enough to try to understand what the other person is actually saying before responding, most of the pitfalls stated above can and would be avoided.

When a difficulty arises and we are confused or just not sure what the other person means; we can tell them what we think they are saying, and ask if we have it right. And if the other person responds that we have it wrong; that is not what they meant: we can be patient with them and ask them to try to explain it again in another way that might help us to understand.

These are the principles that I hold to.
I hope you agree that they are a good basis for any real communication.

This is something that I try to pray every day:
"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of my mouth, but only that which is good to instruct and improve the mind in moral and Christian knowledge, in faith and holiness, that it may minister grace to the hearers." Ephesians 4:29

Thank you

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood

Posted by william on Tue, 01 Jan 2013 01:13:27 GMT
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Hi Tom,

I can't imagine you getting any more answers to any more questions than the ones you've already gotten (in response to your initial question).

The experience you related about a conversation 20 or so years ago was interesting. I too have had many conversations in the past... some may even color my perspective to this day. The thing I try to keep in mind is that every person with whom I interact is a unique individual. Each and every one has had their own experiences which will to some degree dictate their responses.

I'm sorry that you had such a bad experience in your attempt to 'have a conversation' with the individual in your story.

Unfortunately a conversation takes two and if the other party doesn't allow you to respond then the conversation does indeed become a monologue.

On the other hand, all of those who have responded to you have attempted to ascertain your purpose (unlike the person in your story). Nothing from you was forthcoming, by the way, but it wasn't for a lack of trying.

If one is attempting to build up some empirical evidence as to 'how people respond' to various questions and then fault them for their responses it might be helpful to understand that a lack of response (from the person who raises the question, if you will) might skew the results of that study and actually prove the point that one is trying to make, at least to the satisfaction of ones own mind... not saying of course that this is your purpose, mind you, I'm only pointing out some other obvious societal ramifications of this type of approach.

Anyway, to keep this from being a one sided psychiatrist-to patient-on-the-couch kind of query and in the interest of playing along --what do you think of Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings?

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Tue, 01 Jan 2013 15:39:07 GMT
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Excellent point, Tom. I'm sure we've all experienced this to some degree or another.(some of us just might be guilty of this very thing...<grin> we've seen it happen on this forum more than once; it's hard to understand sometimes when all one has is words written on a computer screen and the other person is half way around the world...or even from a different geographical area(as in terms and slang used by 'northerners' vs words used by 'southerners'...lol) But we do try to be long suffering with each other, by God's Grace.

Speaking of...Grace

Define grace. Grace...Ephesians 2:8-9 (unmerited favor)

Define faith. Faith...Hebrews 11:1 (total trust in God)

We could all quote 'the' correct definitions as taught by HEF or other men, and we all could quote scriptures (Titus 3:7 1Peter 1:21) that show examples of grace and faith. More importantly, I think, we could all share testimonies of God's Grace and Faith...fulness in our own lives, but for the sake of this conversation why don't you take for granted that we all have the same basic theological convictions. Perfectly joined together in unity? Not just yet, but coming to that, in Jesus' Name.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Thu, 03 Jan 2013 01:09:14 GMT
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William, James, Gillyann, Mark L, Alanbook (is your name Alan?)...

I am sorry... I should have sent that post prior to asking any question. I just wanted to let you know how I will try to proceed in any discussions we have.
I hope that we all will display a mutual commitment to respect and understanding for each other.

The reason for that post was to (hopefully) lay the ground work for fruitful communication and was in no way a criticism of anyone's response up to this point.

What follows is a story which, I think, illustrates the point of that post and should have been included with it.

This is a true story about an exchange I had that could have ended in anger and resentment on the part of the person I was talking with/questioning. But, instead, his reaction was one of friendship, brotherly love and a teachable spirit: like Apollos Acts 18:24-26 and the Bereans Acts 17:11-12

I had a tract that seemed to be encouraging us to suffer in a deeper way, so we could add our serious physical and emotional suffering to the suffering of Jesus The Messiah. Like the Roman Catholic's believe.

I called the ministry listed on the tract and I asked the man who answered if he was familiar with the tract.
He said he was not (because they print so many tracts) and I proceeded to tell him why I thought the tract was not Biblical, i.e., it was promoting an idea of God's purpose in our suffering that was not Biblical.

I once had a "pastor" tell me that I shouldn't be telling Christians what the Word of God says because "That will offend them."

REALLY!!!

CHRISTIANS OFFENDED BY GOD'S WORD?

I am a Christian.

I LOVE to hear and read and talk about God's Word.

I have NEVER been offended by hearing God's Word.

CONVICTED... YES!

CHALLENGED... CERTAINLY!

BLESSED... ALWAYS!

OFFENDED... NEVER!!!

Anyway...

This person could have "reacted" in anger and self-defense:

WHO DO YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE!!!

THIS IS MY MINISTRY!!! I ANSWER TO GOD ALONE!!!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE THINKS OR SAYS ABOUT MY TRACTS; I KNOW THAT THEY ARE RIGHT!!!

I WOULD NEVER PUT OUT A TRACT THAT WAS NOT CHRISTIAN OR BIBLICAL!!!!

I WILL THANK YOU TO KEEP YOUR OPINIONS TO YOURSELF!!!

He could have said that... After all, I was questioning his ministry.

He could have...

But he didn't.

Instead...

He promised me that, because he wasn't familiar with the tract, he would get it, and since he and his wife would be traveling that day, he would read it and re-evaluate the tract in the light of what I had brought to his attention.

AND THEN...

We started telling each other how great it was that Jesus was our Lord and Savior.
He told me what God was currently doing in his life. It really blessed me; seeing the hand of God working in this man's life: and we praised Jesus for what He was doing to make this man more like Him every day. And then I told him about the things that God was doing in my life, to change me more and more into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Messiah. And all throughout we were quoting the Scriptures that God was working into our lives each and every day.

(My saying at that time was: this is not just what God's Word says: THIS IS WHAT HE IS ACTUALLY DOING IN MY LIFE, RIGHT NOW!)

Through sharing God's Word with each other, God was showing us that we truly were brothers in Messiah Jesus. We knew that we were both sheep belonging to Jesus The Shepherd. Even though we had only met a few minutes before; I knew this man was a true Christian. I knew because of his love for God's Word and for me John 13:35. I knew because of the way he reacted to my "criticism" of his ministry. He acted just like a man that wants to show Jesus to everyone that comes across his path. He treated me with respect and kindness, just as Jesus would. He acted as if we had been close brothers all of our lives; and he was truly glad that I had cared

enough to point out something to him that might need to be looked into or changed.

I was delighted to have had the opportunity to share with my brother all the things that God had been doing in my life.
And we both praised Jesus for all He had done in our lives!

Think about it...

I called him to point out something I thought was wrong (which took about 4 minutes to explain)... and for the rest of our conversation (about 20 minutes):

WE BOTH GOT SIDE-TRACKED INTO PRAISING JESUS!

AND TALKING ABOUT WHAT JESUS WAS DOING IN OUR LIVES.

AND SHARING OUR FATHER'S WORD WITH EACH OTHER.

JESUS was the center of everything that we thought and said during our time together. IT WAS GREAT!!!

I have been looking for Christians like this man; but I can't seem to find any. I will keep looking and remember that I once met a stranger who was more like a true brother (in every sense of the word) than any "christian" I have ever met. I thank God for our short time together, and I look forward to talking to him again someday (I lost the tract with his number).

When I started my journey with Messiah Jesus, my wife and my two brothers and I used to sit around WITH OUR BIBLES OPEN AND TALK ABOUT WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAID. WE USED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT SCRIPTURES WE HAD READ, AND HOW GREAT GOD'S WORD WAS. THOSE DAYS WERE A GREAT TIME OF FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER AROUND GOD'S WORD. I know that my first love was Jesus/God's Word. I would read my Bible and talk about it every day to anyone I met Deut 6:6-7. I was insatiable. This is what I believe Jesus meant when he said forsaking our first love, and doing the first works again. Rev 2:4-5

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Thu, 03 Jan 2013 01:32:13 GMT
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That really is an awesome testimony. To know and have the love and support of the brethren is a precious gift. Especially, that connection, is important for the times in which we live.

So, what is your opinion of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings?

Are they wicked? If not, why?

With all respect in our love for Jesus, just wondering since that is the topic of this thread. I get off track many times, myself. It has been an interesting topic, indeed.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Thu, 03 Jan 2013 09:25:07 GMT
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Tom

My name is Gary Alan, I just use the middle name for a screen name, plus I love to read, hence I came up with Alanbook.

BTW I read your testimony, I must of missed it when you first put it on here. Our backgrounds are similar to some degree. I was not raised in a Christian home but God chose to save me in His grace and mercy in spite of my sinful life as a young person.

Lord Bless,
Gary

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 04 Jan 2013 00:03:37 GMT
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Gillyann...

Could you please expand or explain just what you meant when you said:

"Don't even go there.....Praying for anyone involved in the occult in any way, shape, or form."

[posted on: Sat, 17 November 2012 20:35]

I am not sure what you mean.

I am just now going over all the posts from Mark L's initial comments on Sun, 07 February 2010 17:32 up to today Thur. Jan. 3, 2013

Thank you

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sat, 05 Jan 2013 07:33:43 GMT
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Don't even go there = Astounded that someone from FA thinks these movies are harmless and innocent entertainment.

Praying for .....= I am personally on my knees crying out to God to redeem my family from Satanism, the occult , and Harry Potter.

I am joyfully believing for revival and for anyone involved in the occult.

Please let me know if you need more clarification.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Sun, 06 Jan 2013 10:35:03 GMT
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I really do believe God is calling His people to draw closer to Him in this hour. Especially when you see Christians promoting the demonic things of the world as the beginning post refers to.

Mark L thanks for writing this as I did not completely know of what was taking place. I spoke with a woman a while back who was all excited about this movie, "Twilight", and she ask me if I had read the book.

I did not even know what she was talking about as this was the first time I had heard of it. I thought it was just something about romance, she did not tell me it was dealing with vampires.

Thinking back to that moment I guess it is surprising that an adult would be drooling over some vampire novel.

They want God removed from the schools and society as a whole and then replace it with fantasy comic book characters.

It's just the "signs of the times"!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Mon, 07 Jan 2013 05:20:47 GMT
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Yes, it is coming in like a flood.

I am thankful for the basic and sound teaching.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 11 Jan 2013 22:05:10 GMT
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Hello all...

I am sorry to be taking so long but this latest spanking has been hard to handle Heb 12:5-13.

Gillyann...

When you said:

"Astounded that someone from FA thinks these movies are harmless and innocent entertainment."

were you referring to me?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sat, 12 Jan 2013 02:21:42 GMT
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We are very honest and blunt on here. Maybe too much so. We have discussed subjects, corrected each other, and have even argued, at times. But, we all still want to reach our goal to be like Jesus and to do His perfect will.

We truely are a family. We are the family of God. Siblings have a way of pushing buttons. If buttons are not pushed sometimes, people can't see that they are wrong and need to change their ways or thinking.

It has not been easy at times. I believe iron sharpens iron. These people are tough on here. They know Jesus and the Word. They are priceless. They are made of iron.

I don't think anyone on here means to "hurt" anyone's feelings or to "spank" anyone. Personally, I could not find another resource like OO.

With that being said, do you believe Harry Potter is occult?

A simple yes or no is sufficient.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Tue, 15 Jan 2013 02:45:40 GMT
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A Smoking Flax, I am glad you are on here! You obviously know the Word and have strong opinions. You fit right in!

I am looking forward to seeing you in all of the sections. What else do you think about things?

Let's just put this one to rest.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 15 Jan 2013 10:31:40 GMT
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Dear Gillian...

When I said that I was going through a "spanking" I put in the Hebrews 12:5-13 reference to chastisement from My Father in heaven (And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as unto children, My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him: for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and spanks every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then you are illegitimate, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they truly for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.)
as the reason that I have been taking so long to state my purpose for my initial question.

I do not feel that anyone here has in any way been "spanking" me.

I have been and continue to be indisposed and I am able only to write a little each day. I am working on it; I hope to be finished soon.

P.S. a simple YES or NO answer would not allow me to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Please... be patient with me.

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Tue, 15 Jan 2013 18:20:20 GMT
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You asked me if I was referring to you. I was.

It is a simple question that can be answered with a yes or no.

Will do. I know we all get busy.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 22 Jan 2013 09:55:35 GMT
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Hello...

William, James, Gillyann, Mark L, and Gary.

I realize that I have taken an inordinate amount of time to make my point; but, as I have stated before, I have been indisposed for quite some time and I am not able to work as long or as efficiently as I normally would. (A fruit of the Spirit is patience.)

I thought â€œOvercomers Onlineâ€• might be a forum which would allow interaction with anyone who wants to have a dialogue about any topic one may choose to discuss; especially as it relates to being an â€œOvercomerâ€•?

Was I wrong?

My original question directed to Mark L, the author of the post â€œThereâ€™s Power in the Bloodâ€• was simply:

Just curiousâ€¦ What exactly do you find wrong with Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings ?

Butâ€¦ before I could get to the point I was hoping to make:

William, James, GWB (Gillyann), Mark L, and later Alanbook (Gary) all responded to my question with the assumption that I did not have any spiritual â€œdiscernmentâ€• or Biblical teaching on â€œthe Occultâ€• and proceeded to teach me the Biblical principles and warnings with their personal observations and warnings, a suggestion that I ask The Lord for wisdom and discernment concerning these books and movies, one person thought I â€˜mightâ€™ have

compromised regarding the occult, I was given familial anecdotes, an interpretation of an authorâ€™s dream, and a statement that Hobart Freeman believed C.S. Lewis was influenced by the occult, along with six promptings for an admission or denial as to whether or not I thought there was anything wrong with Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings .

It appears that none of you have actually read all of my testimony.

I spent the first 6 years after my conversion in â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•.
I was part of a group that believed and taught and followed all of Hobart E. Freemanâ€™s teachings.
I never missed a meeting; two-a-week along with extra meetings featuring guest teachers.
Both Steve Hill and Tom Hamilton taught at our local â€œFaith Assemblyâ€• affiliate.
I have never been to The â€œFaith Assemblyâ€•; but I believed and followed everything that Hobart Freeman believed and taught.

I was an â€œOvercomerâ€•.
A member of Godâ€™s â€œElite End Time Armyâ€•.
Knowing that My strong â€œFaithâ€• would get Me through this life and take Me to My Special Rewards in heaven.
Rewards reserved only for Those of Us who â€œOvercomeâ€•. Rev2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; 21:7
Everything that you understand, know and believe.
I know, understand and believed.

As a guest to your site I had hoped you would treat me with grace, decorum and respect.
And not like my friend who asked me what I thought about something; and without waiting for my answer, proceeded to tell me what he thought I thought about it; and then told me what was wrong with what he thought I thought about it. This kind of discourse is not what I would consider productive communication.

You may recall I explained that, in my experience, I have found that most people are incapable of having a real conversation because they are not interested in understanding what the other person is actually saying; instead, they Jump to conclusions, infer bad motives, misconstrue, and respond to things the other person never said or meant: they are incapable of true communication.

When I posted my thesis concerning my commitment to productive communication I noticed that none of you said that you agreed with any of the tenets presented thereâ€”apart from James; who also seemed to notice I never actually said anything about the books or movies but only asked Mark L what exactly â€˜heâ€™ thought was wrong with them and was waiting for me to make my point (albeit this was after also giving me advice).
On three different occasions I have sent my introduction to productive communication to people I was trying to communicate with, and not once has anyone written back to tell me that they agreed

with even one of its tenets or that they would try to hold to the principles advocated in it; they all just pretended they never saw it.

Am I going to be able to exchange ideas with you in a reasonable and rational manner?

Because at this juncture it does not appear that communication with an unknown â€˜outsiderâ€™ is really what you have in mind here.

As I explained in my second post; about the problem with the tract:

Through sharing God's Word with each other, God was showing us that we truly were brothers in Messiah Jesus. 1Cor 1:10
We knew that we were both sheep belonging to Jesus The Shepherd. John 10:27
Even though we had only met a few minutes before; I knew this man was a true Christian.
I knew because of his love for God's Word and for me: John 14:15
By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35
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He acted just like a man that wants to show Jesus to everyone that comes across his path. Luke 10:33-37
He treated me with respect and kindness, just as Jesus would. Phil 2:3

He acted as if we had been close brothers all of our lives;
And he was truly glad that I had cared enough to point out something to him that might need to be looked into or changed.

I was delighted to have had the opportunity to share with my brother all the things that God had been doing in my life.
And we both praised Jesus for all He had done in our lives!

Think about it...

I called him to point out something I thought was wrong (which took about 4 minutes to explain)... and for the rest of our conversation (about 20 minutes):
We both got side-tracked into praising Jesus!
And talking about what Jesus was doing in our lives.
And sharing our Father's Word with each other.

JESUS was the center of everything that we thought and said during our time together. IT WAS GREAT!!!

I have been looking for Christians like this man; but I can't seem to find any.

This is why I am hereâ€¦ I am looking for Christians.

I will keep looking and remember that:
I once met a stranger who was more like a true brother (in every sense of the word) than any "christian" I have ever met.

SO...

Do I try to continue with the point I was hoping to make?

Or should I just move on?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Tue, 22 Jan 2013 15:01:48 GMT
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Tom,

Please continue...and brother, none of us here are perfected yet. As I've stated before, saying one is an overcomer doesn't anymore make one an overcomer than standing in a garage and thinking one is a car. We've all had our toes stepped on or been misunderstood, just believe the best about the other folks and trust The Lord for patience and understanding...and humility.(not refering to you per say, we all need to remember to do unto others as we'd have done unto ourselves.)

Every one on this forum comes from various backgrounds and different parts of the world and are at different places in their/our spiritual growth, with responsibilities and other interest; yet we all share the common link of a love for Jesus (and yes to one degree or another a bond to Faith Assembly/Hobart Freeman)

I do think you have been treated with respect; I know while I'm not the best at internet

communication, I do try to share in love and with an open heart to learn and grow from the interaction with fellow believers.

Don't allow how others react to you and what you feel lead of The Lord to share(speaking to myself and anyone reading) to determine your victory and peace in Jesus.

"To him that overcometh..."

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Tue, 22 Jan 2013 17:04:12 GMT
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A_Smoking_Flax wrote on Tue, 22 January 2013 03:55Hello...

William, James, Gillyann, Mark L, and Gary.

I realize that I have taken an inordinate amount of time to make my point; but, as I have stated before, I have been indisposed for quite some time and I am not able to work as long or as efficiently as I normally would. (A fruit of the Spirit is patience.)

Yes you have, and yet you still have time to write these long explanations that don't explain anything. Patience IS a fruit of the Spirit and exasperation is a fruit of the flesh... right now I'm exasperated.

Quote:I thought â€œOvercomers Onlineâ€• might be a forum which would allow interaction with anyone who wants to have a dialogue about any topic one may choose to discuss; especially as it relates to being an â€œOvercomerâ€•?

Was I wrong?

Probably.

I mean... just look at the facts. James has posted 1290 messages on this board, Alanbook weighs in at 41 (but we know him from a bulk of previous messages that are no longer here probably numbering in the neighborhood of 500 or so), GWB has 506, Mark? About 300, I've posted 975. Now compare that with your 11 posts which as you have admitted repeatedly, doesn't explain anything about your 'point'.

Quote:
My original question directed to Mark L, the author of the post â€œThereâ€™s Power in the

Bloodâ€• was simply:

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Butâ€¦ before I could get to the point I was hoping to make:

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It appears that none of you have actually read all of my testimony.

That may be true but one only needs to look over the 1000's of messages that we've posted to be able to ascertain EXACTLY where our hearts are concerning a multitude of issues... not one of us has had a secret agenda. Blemished as we may be there isn't one person on here that I wouldn't love to spend a whole lot of time fellowshipping with. I would consider it a privilege to be in their presence... because I know them. I don't know you and even with your testimony I find it extremely frustrating that you can't seem to communicate one single post that would prompt me to want to find out more. But hey, that's just me... I cannot speak for the rest.

Quote:I spent the first 6 years after my conversion in â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•.
I was part of a group that believed and taught and followed all of Hobart E. Freemanâ€™s teachings.
I never missed a meeting; two-a-week along with extra meetings featuring guest teachers.
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Am I going to be able to exchange ideas with you in a reasonable and rational manner?

You tell us? What is your agenda? What is your 'point'? You want to fellowship with us? Read our testimonies and see if we are worthy of your attention. If not, then you'll need to make your own choices as to where you go from here.

If you are looking for a perfect group you're going to be disappointed but you'll not find a better group of friends than you will find here.

Quote:

Because at this juncture it does not appear that communication with an unknown â€˜outsiderâ€™ is really what you have in mind here.

It doesn't take that much time for an "outsider" to be accepted. However, in this situation the outsider continues to question the motives of those with whom he wishes to interact instead of

getting to know us by the body of evidence that serves as our testimony. Not only that, you seem satisfied that we should already know you by the rather scant information that you've given us in your 11 posts.

To avoid ambiguity let me state clearly: If you want fellowship then enough already with this game you're playing... it isn't going over too well. Enough already with the mysterious questions and either spend some time reading and getting to know us, or give us some answers as to your 'point'.

Quote:
As I explained in my second post; about the problem with the tract:

Through sharing God's Word with each other, God was showing us that we truly were brothers in Messiah Jesus. 1Cor 1:10
We knew that we were both sheep belonging to Jesus The Shepherd. John 10:27
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I have been looking for Christians like this man; but I can't seem to find any.

And as I've explained to you... we've given you answers... you've given us nothing.

Quote:
This is why I am hereâ€¦ I am looking for Christians.

You've found them here.

Quote:
I will keep looking and remember that:
I once met a stranger who was more like a true brother (in every sense of the word) than any "christian" I have ever met.

We've got ourselves a 'stranger' here... it remains to be seen whether or not he will turn out to be as true as I've found James, Alanbook, Gillyann, and Mark to be.

Quote:

SO...

Do I try to continue with the point I was hoping to make?

Or should I just move on?

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick (Proverbs 13:12) so hows about you getting to your point and see if you can salvage this situation?

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 22 Jan 2013 21:54:04 GMT
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William...

I am sorry that I have frustrated you.

That was not my intent.

I am not playing any game at all and I have no agenda whatsoever and I never intended anything I have said to be mysterious.

Again I am sorry if that is how I seem to you.

I can assure you that I will consider carefully all that you have said. I believe it is wise to consider everything that everyone tells me; because I have found that God often uses other people and a variety of means to get my attention. 1Thes 5:21

This is why God made His church a living body.

I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Rom 15:14

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by william on Tue, 22 Jan 2013 22:02:21 GMT
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Okay, fresh slate. Looking forward to getting to know you!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 00:14:20 GMT
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James...

Congratulations!!!

You caught my intent from the way I stated my question.

James wrote:

I don't think anyone here has compromised in this area, I think Tom (smoking flax) 'might' be the one exception, because he didn't continue with the conversation once we started answering him. [I can assure everyone here that I have not compromised, even one iota, in the area of the occult.]

(but maybe he's just not had time and will at some future time...)

He never said where he stood concerning Harry Potter/ Lord of the Rings,

he just asked Mark what exactly 'he' found wrong with those books/movies,

maybe he just wanted to see if Mark had scriptural reasons or was just throwing out an opinion...

[This is exactly why I asked the question as I did. Three stars for James.]

James also wrote:

Looking forward to your comments Tom,

I was hoping you had a purpose in asking the question as you did...

I'm sure we could all 'add' to the conversation,

knowledge and discernment concerning the occult isn't always reduced to a neat, compact answer.

[Nothing about God or His ways or our responsibilities or our individual walk with Jesus is.]

If you have further specific questions or comments feel free to share away.

And after I presented my "introduction to productive Communication"

James wrote:

Excellent point, Tom. I'm sure we've all experienced this to some degree or another. (some of us just might be guilty of this very thing...<grin> we've seen it happen on this forum more than once; it's hard to understand sometimes when all one has is words written on a computer screen and the other person is half way around the world...or even from a different geographical area (as in terms and slang used by 'northerners' vs words used by 'southerners'...lol)

But we do try to be long suffering with each other, by God's Grace.

[We do indeed need to be long suffering; and apart from God's gift of Grace we could never accomplish it.]

Maybe at a future date we can take up the question of Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings.

But I had hoped to start with a question that I asked before but only James answered:

Define faith.

Define grace.

This time I would like you to be as thorough as you can.

I realize that this is fundamental but please indulge me.

If only one of you wants to answer for the others and everyone agrees with the answer then we can move to the next point.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 00:49:30 GMT
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Tom wrote:

Maybe at a future date we can take up the question of Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings.

But I had hoped to start with a question that I asked before but only James answered:

Define faith.

Define grace.

This time I would like you to be as thorough as you can.

I realize that this is fundamental but please indulge me.

If only one of you wants to answer for the others and everyone agrees with the answer then we can move to the next point.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Tom

Welcome to OO !

Iâ€™ve been lurking in the back for 2 months waiting to hear your views on Harry Potter.

Please donâ€™t keep me in suspense Ref:

Define Faith

Define Grace

Please give us your Definitions first â€¦..

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 03:34:14 GMT
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Faith= Hebrews 11:1

Grace= Unmerited favor (Greek trans. I believe.)

Now, may I ask if you feel that these two stories are pleasing to God?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 13:19:33 GMT
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In thinking about if these two occult stories are pleasing to God, would you please leave all of your opinions about people on OO out of your answer?

I am glad you are here. I really am!

BTW...Do you have siblings?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 15:03:29 GMT
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"Three stars for James"

I feel a bit like Joseph (hope you 'siblings' aren't too jealous...) Gee whiz! I hadn't had any 'stars' since Sunday School in the Southern Baptist church way back when, thanks Tom.

Seriously though Tom, I believe I answered your question concerning definitions back a couple months ago (message #9223) and I believe most would agree that it reflects their position as well.

SOOOO!!! As everyone else is saying or thinking:

GET TO THE POINT, please?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 23:36:14 GMT
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I wasn't going to say anything publicly about the coveted three star award, but since you spilled the beans here, James.

Honestly I think Tom has everyone's curiosity up. Whether good or bad we just wanted to know what you (Tom) thought about Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings is all?

What do you think about the books and movies concerning Harry Potter and the Lord of the Rings?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Wed, 23 Jan 2013 23:37:39 GMT
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James what is message #9223? I could not find it.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Thu, 24 Jan 2013 00:02:22 GMT
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message 9223

james wrote on Tue, 01 January 2013 09:39Excellent point, Tom. I'm sure we've all experienced this to some degree or another.(some of us just might be guilty of this very thing...<grin> we've seen it happen on this forum more than once; it's hard to understand sometimes when all one has is words written on a computer screen and the other person is half way around the world...or even from a different geographical area(as in terms and slang used by 'northerners' vs words used by 'southerners'...lol) But we do try to be long suffering with each other, by God's Grace.

Speaking of...Grace

Define grace. Grace...Ephesians 2:8-9 (unmerited favor)

Define faith. Faith...Hebrews 11:1 (total trust in God)

We could all quote 'the' correct definitions as taught by HEF or other men, and we all could quote scriptures (Titus 3:7 1Peter 1:21) that show examples of grace and faith. More importantly, I think, we could all share testimonies of God's Grace and Faith...fulness in our own lives, but for the sake of this conversation why don't you take for granted that we all have the same basic theological convictions. Perfectly joined together in unity? Not just yet, but coming to that, in Jesus' Name.

Yep! I agree

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Thu, 24 Jan 2013 04:24:20 GMT
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It is OK, three star James.

I promise to not throw you down a well or anything!!!

LOL

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 25 Jan 2013 08:19:12 GMT
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When James surmised why I hadnâ€™t responded to your questions: â€œmaybe he's just not had time and will at some future time...â€• he was somewhat correct.

Since November, I have been going through some serious physical trials and was unable to sit at the computer or do much of anything; except recline in a lounge chair.
It has only been in the last four days that I can spend any significant time at the computer.

The last two short essays that I submitted: â€œProductive Communicationâ€• (I mentioned that I had sent it out two times before without receiving any reply) and â€œThe Response of a Close Brother I Had Never Metâ€• (about contacting the producer of the tract promoting a Roman Catholic idea) had been written years before. I simply copied and pasted them onto the site to let you know that I was still here and preparing to continue my post.

While I was recuperating and before I could get to the point I was hoping to make.

My simple question to Mark L: â€œWhat exactly do you find wrong with Harry Potter and The Lord of The Rings ?
 had become a question directed to me: â€œWhat do you think of the Harry Potter books? Are they Occult? Yes or No!â€•

This is not really a topic for discussion but a simple Poll: VOTE: YES or NO! If I came across this

Poll on any web site I would have moved on to something else. YES or NO Polls do not allow the participants to express any subtleties or additional considerations or ramifications as you could with a topic submitted for open discussion. Did you vote for so-and-so: YES or NO? Once you answer, people tend to put you in a box, and any nuances or details or associated ideas become impossible to relate. YES or NO limits your ability to move into new areas because you become trapped in your concrete statement: one question one answer. Real life is full of variations on a theme and to limit anyone to a one word answer is unwise: there could be areas of thought brought to the discussion that you may never have considered. The fluidity of conversation and ideas, and peoples insights, revelations and gifts are the reasons I desire real unencumbered interaction.

Think of how limiting these questions are:

Is God love? Yes or No!
Does God forgive? Yes or No!
Did Jesus do what Legion asked? Yes or No!
Did Jesus listen to Satan? Yes or No!

I would never limit myself to a yes or no answer to any of these questions because there is so much more that needs to be said about them;
both in the positive (what is true about them), and in the negative (what is not true about them).

Think about what the Apostle Paul did on Mars Hill.

He cared so much about reaching the lost that he said he would be willing to be forever cursedâ€”cut off from Christ!â€”if that would save his Jewish brothers and sisters. Rom 9:3

Paul knew that the whole world was sold out to Satan in thought, word, and deed: and his response was to make himself a servant to all, so that he might win more of them.
To the Jews he became as a Jew; to them that are under the law, as under the law; to them that are without law, as without law. To the weak he became as weak, so that he might gain the weak:
He became all things to all men, so that by every means possible he might save some. 1Cor 9:20-22

Mars Hill was an area in Athens, where many different â€˜religiousâ€™ people were sacrificing to their many different godâ€™s. Paulâ€™s spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given over to idolatry.
He knew that the things which the Gentiles sacrificed, they were actually sacrificing to devils, and not to God.
He also understood that we should not have fellowship with devils.
So what did Godâ€™s Apostle to the Heathen do? Acts 17:16-33 1Cor 10:20

Seeing a Satanic Altar that they had set up in ignorance to an unknown god; Paul used their Satanic Altar to preach Jesus to them. He also referred to ideas taught by some of their secular poets. Paul used those secular poetâ€™s ideasâ€”ideas these Satan worshiping heathens knew, understood and believedâ€”to help them to know, understand and believe the truth of Godâ€™s Word. None of these sold out to Satan, devil worshiping, sinful, ungodly heathens had any way of relating to or understanding Godâ€™s Word. To reach these idol worshipers with His truth, God had Paul use these two doors: their own Satanic Altar (that they were probably using at the time) and their own secular poets. Paul knew and understood the teachings of their secular poets and because he understood them he was able to use those teachings to help them relate to Godâ€™s Word.
Instead of condemning them as evil and fleeing that idol worshiping pit; Paul used what they were doing (sacrificing to unknown gods/devils) to reach them:
and those whose hearts the Lord opened, to pay attention to the things that Paul said, were saved. Acts 17:33-34

God is in control and He leaves doors open in Satanâ€™s deceptions, philosophies and false religious beliefsâ€¦ even in his books and movies.

I experienced one such â€˜doorâ€™ when I was considering reading Godâ€™s Word for the first time in my life.

Before I had read even one word from the Bible;

Before I even knew what discernment was;

Before I forsook my long-held Eastern Philosophies: whose central tenet was understanding that â€™Godâ€™ was merely a â€˜forceâ€™ of the cosmos to be used by those who understood the â€˜divine principlesâ€™.

God led me to Himself and showed me His perspective through the things of this world. How else would I hear from Him?
I wasnâ€™t looking for God. I wasn't interested in God at all. Rom 10:20 Psalm 119:155

Just before I started to read Godâ€™s Word, I watched a movie which was popular at the time called Oh God starring John Denver and George Burns.

This movie was designed to teach us the â€œtruthâ€• about God and what He wants us to know about Himself and His ways.

Here are a few of the â€œteachingsâ€• from this movie:

1. God makes mistakes. [God is just like us: so we must be just like Him.]
2. Jesus was not the only â€˜saviorâ€™ God had worked with. [We too, can be just like Jesus who used â€˜Godâ€™s power.â€™]
3. It is up to us to â€˜save this world.â€™ [God is waiting for us to use His power to accomplish this.]
4. Shame was one of Godâ€™s â€˜goofs.â€™ [There is no such thing as sin so what do you have to be ashamed of?]
5. When we pray God doesnâ€™t always listen. [He doesnâ€™t have to: He told us how He set up this world to work: itâ€™s up to us.]
6. God cares about our problems but he is powerless to help us. [It is up to us to put His principles into action.]
7. God set up the world to work in a certain way but he is not involved with the details [Like: Deism, the new age/occult, and other doctrines of religious men. It is up to us to apply those revealed principles in our lives.]
8. God â€˜doesnâ€™t have a clueâ€™ about the future: that is up to us. [We have access to His power to make our own future. He is depending on us to make this world good.]
9. Young people canâ€™t do anything to fall from His grace. [There is no such thing as sin.]
10. Divine truth is not in a book or a story. [The Bible is NOT true. The Bible is NOT Godâ€™s Word.]
11. â€œThe heart is the temple wherein all truth resides.â€• [We can find Godâ€™s â€˜truthâ€™ for ourselves simply by being still and letting God speak to our hearts: this is how God reveals His â€˜truthâ€™ to us: we do not need the Bible.]
12. â€œJesus was Godâ€™s son, Buddha was Godâ€™s son, Mohammed, Moses, the man who said there was no room at the inn, were all Godâ€™s sons.â€• [We are â€˜Godâ€™s sonsâ€™ just like Jesus .]
13. â€œWill there be a Judgment Day?â€• Godâ€™s answer: â€œNO.â€• [How could a â€˜powerâ€™ â€˜judgeâ€™â€¦ besides: there is no such thing as sin.]
14. â€œWhat is the meaning of manâ€™s existence?â€• Godâ€™s answer: â€œVoltaire might have been right. He said I was a comedian playing to an audience that was afraid to laugh. Manâ€™s existence means exactly and precisely, not more, not one tiny bit less: just what they think it means, and what I think doesnâ€™t count at all.â€• [You determine how your life will unfold. Stop waiting for God to lead you; He has given you everything you need to realize your will, your desires, your daily needs, your perfect lifeâ€¦ just like Jesus .] John Denver remarks: â€œThatâ€™s very profound!â€• God says: â€œSometimesâ€¦ I get lucky.â€•
15. The biggest jerk in the movie was the bible preaching evangelist; who was told by God that he did not speak for Him. [Those who follow and believe only what the Bible teaches are not really following God. They are missing out on all that God has to offer.]

Since I had believed every new age/occult teaching offered in this movie since I was a teenager (with one small exception) I should have abandoned the notion of reading Godâ€™s Word for myself; and continued believing that â€˜Jesusâ€™ was just another Avatar in a pantheon of Avatars (which included me) and gone on believing in my own made-up â€˜Godâ€™ without

giving it a single thought. Exodus 20:3-6

BUTâ€¦

There was one essential fact that God knew I needed to understand about Him BEFORE I read the Bible.

And God chose to use this anti-Christian, anti-Biblical, pro-Satan, New Age/Occult, pro-Humanist propaganda film to teach it to me. Rom 8:28

So, after all the lies about The God of The Bible that I watched and I listened to with an open mind and believing heart for ninety-eight minutesâ€¦

What message did I take from this movie?

I came away from watching that movie with the fundamental Biblical Truth:

GOD IS A PERSON!

NOT A POWER OF THE COSMOS!

Not simply the source of â€˜powerâ€™ that only I (and a select few like me who understood these â€˜divine principlesâ€™) had access to by believing and doing certain things that would release â€˜Godâ€™s powerâ€™ in my life: like keeping positive thoughts about what I was going through in my life and believing that I would get all the desires of my heart (being happy and healthy and having a nice house and being successful in my profession); and by making positive statements about receiving those things in my life, and doing things that showed I believed I would receive them e.g., Jim Carreyâ€™s $20,000,000 check. [For those of you who donâ€™t know: Jim Carrey was the first actor to receive a $20 million paycheck for a movie. When he was just starting out as a comedian in Canada he wrote himself a check for $20 million made out to â€˜cashâ€™. He showed it to everyone and told them â€œSomeday Iâ€™m going to cash this check!â€• he did.]
I was completely convinced, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I would receive these things; because I was taught by â€˜specially anointedâ€™ teachers: Gurus who were great â€˜spiritualâ€™ men who had learned how to live a deeper spiritual life and who revealed to us the deeper truths that only a special few could understand: this is how the â€˜Godâ€™ of the universe had designed this world to work.
Like many new agersâ€™ I had believed all of these tenets for many years and had been â€˜faithfullyâ€™ practicing them daily.

Just as I was about to check out this 'Bible thing'... our adversary the devil led me to watch a movie that he had made to turn people like me away from the God of the Bible.

And I have no doubt that he was confident his movie would do exactly what it was designed to do: Turn me away from the Jesus of the Bible and stop me from understanding, believing or even reading Godâ€™s Word. Mat 13:19

BUTâ€¦

Because God had chosen me from before the foundation of the world: I was one of His sheep and He had other plans for me.
Godâ€™s sheep hear His voice and we only follow Jesus (Godâ€™s Word). We follow Jesus because we recognize His voice. We wonâ€™t follow anyone except Jesus. We wonâ€™t follow strangers, we separate ourselves from them: because we donâ€™t recognize what they say as being from God. They sound like thieves and robbers and we wonâ€™t listen to them. Eph 1:4 John 10:1-8

Besides I know that God works all things together for good to those that love Him, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Rom 8:28

I donâ€™t fear the devil because Jesus gave me power over him:
Behold, I give to you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

I know Him (Jesus) in whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him (my eternal life) against that day. 2Tim 1:12

SOâ€¦

Is Oh God a wicked, evil, ungodly movie? Yes or No!

Instead of answering Yes or No!

I would prefer to tell the story of Godâ€™s preservation, influence and help, given to a young man who was lost and deceived and blissfully on his way to an eternity in The Lake of Fire.
And who by Godâ€™s grace was called out of the world, granted repentance and saved.

And, just like those on Mars Hill that day:
God used an ungodly thing to help me to come to Him:
God used a movie, designed by the devil to turn people away from God and the Bible, to turn me to Himself and His Word.

Joseph's brothers meant to bring harm to him, what they did was evil. They did it out of hatred and jealousy; but God used it for good, to save all of His people from starvation.
Joseph understood that God is in control. Gen 50:20 Rom 8:28

For those unsaved people who have seen this movie and liked it; I think I would try to bring their attention to the one scriptural truth presented in the movie
and then use that truth as a springboard to turn them away from Satanâ€™s lies and to the One True Personal God: just as He did for me so long ago.
This approach may be more effective than just telling them: "That movie is of the devil and I will have nothing to do with it! And neither should you!" Trying to be all things to all people, so that I might win some.

Anywayâ€¦

The topic I was hoping to introduce for discussion was not this black and white/yes or no question that most christians, even non-charismatic, denominational ones, know the answer to, which is: "No one should read Harry Potter books because they are evil. They encourage children to become witches and wizards; and they endorse, and promote witchcraft!"

The topic I was hoping to discuss has nothing to do with the Parry Hotter books whatsoever.

The topic I was hoping to discuss was â€œFaithâ€•.

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Fri, 25 Jan 2013 14:12:31 GMT
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Thanks for your opinion and the info!

You are my sibling in Jesus and I am glad you are here!

I believe that God does not need occult movies or manifestations to preach the Gospel. If He chooses to do so, I believe it is total grace and mercy. He meets people where they are at, so to speak.

I don't think they are "Holy tools" for sharing Jesus.

Just a few thoughts, that's all.

I still feel like I want to bang my head against the wall when I read your stuff.

It is your turn to be patient with me. lol

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Sat, 26 Jan 2013 00:19:04 GMT
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Dear Gillyann...

I will always be patient with you.

There is nothing you could do to change my commitment to love you.

Jesus said we should love our neighbor as we love our selves.

Just how do I love myself?

I am very forgiving of myself: and so of you.

I am very patient with myself: and so of you.

I am very hopeful toward myself: and so of you.

I wish the best for myself: and so of you.

His servant and yours

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sat, 26 Jan 2013 01:50:13 GMT
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Cool beans!!!

Keep sharing! It is all interesting!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Sat, 26 Jan 2013 05:58:29 GMT
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Sooooo.....now that we agree the stories are not of God, what about faith? We know the definition. Let's move on. Comments?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 02:42:32 GMT
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Ron requested that I give the definitions.
OKâ€¦

All Christians seem to know this definition of grace:

GRACE:
The free unmerited love and favor of God.
God never does anything for us because we deserve it.
(The only thing any of us deserve is eternal punishment for our sins in The Lake of Fire.)
There is nothing we could do to merit Godâ€™s grace.
Grace is a free gift.

FAITH:
The word faith has two meanings:
One is belief in all the doctrines that make up the â€˜Christian faithâ€™, as in the Lutheran faith.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are still in the faith [the Christian faith]. Test yourselves! Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?â€”unless indeed you are reprobates? 2Cor 13:5

Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith [the Christian faith], giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. 1Tim 4:1

The second is unshakable belief.

Most Christians believe these definitions:

faith
strong or unshakable belief in something, especially without proof or evidence
a conviction of the truth of certain doctrines of religion, especially when this is not based on reason

A â€˜leap of faithâ€™ is: a belief or trust in something intangible or incapable of being proved.

faith
loyalty; belief in God; belief without proof.
belief in God or in the Scriptures or other religious writings.
a system of religious belief.

faith
a believing without proof; trust; confidence in God, religion, or spiritual things.
belief in God, religion, or spiritual things.
what is believed.

faith [fidere, to trust, confide in]
unquestioning belief.
unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc..
a religion or a system of religious beliefs: as, the Catholic faith.
anything believed.
loyalty; allegiance to some person or thing. SYN. see belief.
SYN. â€“ belief, faith implies complete, blind acceptance of something, especially of something not supported by reason.

What follows is the comprehensive definition of the word "faith".

As taught by the "Word of Faith" preachers I have heard.

FAITH:
Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1

Faith is a spiritual substance; a spiritual substance of power.

Faith is the spiritual power that God used to create the world; the power that Jesus and his disciples used: to heal the sick, to cast out devils, to raise the dead, to feed thousands, to walk on water, to curse the fig tree; and for us to use the same way today, and to do the greater works

Jesus promised we will do, if we would only believe.

Faith is belief; belief and trust in that spiritual power.
Those who are strong in faith have learned to use this spiritual power just like Jesus. Mat 9:6-8, 21:21-22, Mark 3:14-15, 5:25-30,34, Luke 6:19, 9:40-43, John 1:12, Acts 10:38, Rom 1:16, 2Thes 1:11, 1Pet 1:5

We understand it was through faith (the spiritual substance of power) that God created the universe. Heb 11:3
Some people have a great amount of faith (spiritual prowess/ability). Mat 8:10, 15:28
Some have only a little faith (spiritual prowess/ability). Mat 8:26
We show our faith by our actions. Mat 9:2
Our own faith is so powerful, that with it, we could throw a mountain into the sea. Mat 21:21
God expects us to use our own faith in times of need. Luke 8:23-25
It is our own faith that saves us. Luke 7:50, 18:42
When Jesus returns He will be looking for faith (those who possess strong spiritual prowess/ability). Luke 18:8
God does not help us because of His compassion; He only acts in response to our belief. Mark 9:22-23
God only heals in response to our own faith. Mat 9:22,29
Our unbelief hinders Godâ€™s ability to heal, deliver or help us. Mat 13:58, Mark 6:5-6
Our unbelief hinders our own ability to heal, deliver or help others. Mat 17:19-20
Faith is like a spiritual muscle that must be exercised daily in order for it to grow into strong faith. Rom 4:19-20
The just shall live day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute by their faith. Heb 10:38
It was only by using their own faith that anyone accomplished anything throughout all of history. Heb 11:1-40
Everything we do must be by faith; because anything that is not of faith is sin. Rom 14:23
It is by our faith that we overcome the world. 1John 5:4

Faith is not based on evidence.

The second aspect of faith is belief without any proof or evidence or reason whatsoever.

Shortly after Jesus saved me, I attended a "Creation Seminar" which gave excellent scientific evidence that I believed.
I believed the scientific evidence presented during that seminar proved, beyond any shadow of doubt, that only The God of The Bible could have created the universe.
When I started to share that evidence with a friend/brother, who was an anointed faith teacher, he stopped me and said:
â€œDonâ€™t tell me that! If I hear the evidence then I wonâ€™t be able to have faith that God

created the world.â€•

As stated in the above definitions:
Faith is not based on evidence; faith is believing without proof; faith is unquestioning belief.
True faith implies complete, blind acceptance of something, especially of something not supported by reason.

You can only "believe God" for things you have no evidence for; your own faith stands in the gap, so to speak, until you receive the complete manifestation of what you are "believing God" for.

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he still hope for it?
But if we hope for what we do not see, then do we wait for it with patience. Rom 8:24-25

Abraham believed, God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which are not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations. Rom 4:17-18

Jesus admonished Thomas: â€œBecause you have seen me, you have believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.â€• John 20:29

Another creation/evolution teacher warned that:
The mountain of scientific evidence he had just presented did not "prove" that God created the universe, â€œBecause that is where faith comes in.â€•
He didnâ€™t want Christians to stand on scientific evidence for their belief that God is the creator; he cautioned us:
â€œThe belief that God is the creator is a matter of faith; not evidence.â€•

To sum it up:
There are two aspects to Biblical faith:

Faith is a spiritual substance: a spiritual substance of power.
And
Faith is unshakable belief: belief that doesnâ€™t require any proof or evidence or reason whatsoever.

This is the meaning of the word "faith" as I was taught it.
I tried to be fairly thorough.
Is this acceptable?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 30 Jan 2013 13:28:36 GMT
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Great answer, Tom. I need to go over it and let it all sink in!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 00:56:06 GMT
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Thanks Tom,

A good example of both terms could be found in Luke 1:26-38.

Grace:
30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary:
for thou hast found favour with God.

Faith:
38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
be it unto me according to thy word.

Blessings

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Thu, 31 Jan 2013 22:09:09 GMT
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Thanks Gillyann and Ron...

I had hoped to keep the interest of William, Mark L, James, and Gary.

It may be that they have just been too busy (I know James is) and will agree or disagree or suggest some modifications some time soon.

These posts are only preliminary, to make sure that we are all in agreement about these definitions.

Once we are in agreement...

I will have one more question for you and THEN, I promise,

I will make the point I was hoping to make about "faith".

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 05 Feb 2013 23:46:45 GMT
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It appears that no one else is going to weigh in on whether or not they agree with the definition of the word "faith" as I was taught it by the "Word of Faith" teachers.

I will proceed with Gillyann and Ron and hope that Mark L, William, James, and Gary will join us when they can.

I'm sorry:

I know I said I would have one more question for you...

But I need to modify that statement.

I have a few more questions that will lead us to the point of all of this.

And this is where I will need your cooperation in order to continue.

These definitions are also understood and believed by most Christians and virtually all religious people.

Church:
A building designed for public forms of worship, especially Christian worship.

Saint:
Any of certain persons of exceptional holiness of life, formally recognized as such by the Christian Church, especially by canonization.

Baptism:
To pour or sprinkle water on infants (or adults).

Apocalypse:
Any universal or widespread destruction or disaster: the apocalypse of nuclear war.
The belief that, sometime in the future, there will be a great world war in which the forces of good and evil clash in a final cataclysmic battle.

Are any of these words correctly defined?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what makes them incorrect?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what are the correct definitions?

How do we know the correct meaning/definition of any of the words used in the Bible?

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Wed, 06 Feb 2013 02:11:20 GMT
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Tom wrote:

Are any of these words correctly defined?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what makes them incorrect?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what are the correct definitions?

How do we know the correct meaning/definition of any of the words used in the Bible?

****

Well.....
I know you have the correct answers to the questions...

Please tell us so we can get to the point of all this.

Blessings

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by james on Wed, 06 Feb 2013 15:23:20 GMT
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A_Smoking_Flax wrote on Tue, 05 February 2013 17:46 It appears that no one else is going to weigh in on whether or not they agree with the definition of the word "faith" as I was taught it by the "Word of Faith" teachers.

I will proceed with Gillyann and Ron and hope that Mark L, William, James, and Gary will join us when they can.

Tom, we're keeping an eye on what's being discussed, even though the lenght of time it's taking is very taxing on the patience of a person.LOL

I'm sorry:

I know I said I would have one more question for you...

But I need to modify that statement.

I have a few more questions that will lead us to the point of all of this.

And this is where I will need your cooperation in order to continue.

These definitions are also understood and believed by most Christians and virtually all religious people.

Church:
A building designed for public forms of worship, especially Christian worship.

If only you'd take some time to read some threads you'd see that we have discussed these things more than once and all agree that the CHURCH is the people, the body of Christ, not a building.
Saint:
Any of certain persons of exceptional holiness of life, formally recognized as such by the Christian Church, especially by canonization.

Likewise, all here agree that we are 'SAINT' tified when we are truly 'born again'...thus, we are saints of God.(as are all those who have gone on before us)

Baptism:
To pour or sprinkle water on infants (or adults).

 Baptism, the physical act, is submersion just as was discribed in The Word of the way Jesus was baptized by John The Baptist.

Apocalypse:
Any universal or widespread destruction or disaster: the apocalypse of nuclear war.
The belief that, sometime in the future, there will be a great world war in which the forces of good and evil clash in a final cataclysmic battle.

Are any of these words correctly defined?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what makes them incorrect?

If any of these words are incorrectly defined what are the correct definitions?

How do we know the correct meaning/definition of any of the words used in the Bible?

Tom

I'm not attempting to speak for everyone, by word definitions or opinions, but I know I'm a patient person(not that I'm alone in that respect.<grin>) and I am believing for a perfect memory, but I'm having trouble remembering when this journey started and certainly don't have a clue where the destination will be...Don't take offense, just get to the point of your thoughts, please...

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Fri, 08 Feb 2013 06:24:22 GMT
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Banging head against wall.....

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Tue, 19 Feb 2013 20:43:07 GMT
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Dear A Smoking Flax,

I am so very sorry if I offended you by the previous statement.

Please disregard the comment and accept my apology.

Your input is valuable. I am learning your personality. Sometimes it is very hard without being face to face.

I am still very interested in where this is going.

Sooooo, what is up?

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 19 Feb 2013 23:27:13 GMT
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Dear Gillyann...

I take you to be an honest person.

Being honest is very important to me.

Honest self-expression can even include an angry response.

I was not offended at all by your comment, and I don't think that you have ever exhibited any anger towards me.

I have had more trouble with my "trial" and something very important came up recently which demanded most of my time.

I am working on my "faith" message as we speak, and I hope to have it finished soon.

His servant and yours

Tom

Nice picture!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by GWB on Wed, 20 Feb 2013 04:10:41 GMT
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I know you will overcome your trial with flying colors!

I am looking forward to your response.

Thanks! I finally have a face!

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by sparkles on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 02:12:24 GMT
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Hello Tom,

You said:
Shortly after Jesus saved me, I attended a "Creation Seminar" which gave excellent scientific evidence that I believed.

I believed the scientific evidence presented during that seminar proved, beyond any shadow of doubt, that only The God of The Bible could have created the universe.
When I started to share that evidence with a friend/brother, who was an anointed faith teacher, he stopped me and said:
â€œDonâ€™t tell me that! If I hear the evidence then I wonâ€™t be able to have faith that God created the world.â€•
Just wondering who this anointed faith teacher was. It would be hard for me to believe a true teacher wouldnâ€™t be able to have faith that God created the world just because of what a person
from a Creation Seminar said.

It appears that no one else is going to weigh in on whether or not they agree with the definition of the word "faith" as I was taught it by the "Word of Faith" teachers.
Who are these Word of Faith teachers?
I donâ€™t want to assume you mean teachers from Faith Assembly or the other meetings. Or do you mean some of the teachers on TV who promote a seed faith, give to get message?

One thing many of us know is faith works in every area of our lives. God heals, delivers, gives us our desires as well as our needs. God promises us to prosper and be in health, even as our soul prospers. But as we have been taught, there are conditions to meet.

And just for the record, Harry Potter is a book Christians should not read nor recommend to others. We are to guard our hearts with all diligence, and reading an occult book like this or a multitude of others out there will only harm us, not minister faith. We arenâ€™t afraid of these books, but rather we try to be wise and discerning in what we read and watch.

And I would have to agree with James in his definitions that you asked for.

Is there another site we could go to and find the questions or answers that you said you would give us? I know you are going through a trial, but if you have anything written to give us a clue what you are thinking it would be nice.

Thanks and hope you are feeling better soon. If there is anything you can share about your trial I am sure we would be glad to stand with you in prayer.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by wishing34 on Tue, 05 Mar 2013 05:15:33 GMT
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Hi Flax,

Here is a quote from your initial testimony that you posted in Nov 2012.

Flax wrote:
I thought of Myself as an "Intellectual" and I loved to twist people's words around and play games with their thinking. It was a sport to Me and I was good at it. I played mind games with virtually everyone I talked toâ€¦

You are still doing the mind games thing.

People are bristling up at you here because you seem
artificial in this thread - as if you are about the debate
process as a sport and not about the issue at hand (still undefined
even though your part started almost four months ago).

==========

Consider this:
Take a brand new topic and post according to the following format:

1) I believe < insert your idea here >
2) If I am correct then that means < insert ramifications w/r your idea here>
3) Feedback is appreciated.

People will respond with lively and robust discussion that you will
enjoy. You will soon feel quite at home here.

==========

Jman

---sig---

At the time of this post . . .

FA, the satellites, the spinoffs,and the FA diaspora have been having church without apostles for 41 years and 63 days.
Initial start date 1/1/72

Recommended: No faith stands that strongly impact our (our children's) lives until we figure out why the signs and wonders are missing. Something is wrong.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Tue, 05 Mar 2013 22:06:55 GMT
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Jman...

I am sorry you feel that I am merely "playing games" here.
I can only tell you that what you believe about me is not true at all: I am NOT playing any kind of game with any of you.

For me to "play games" with you would be to disrespect God, Whom I serve and in Who's image you are made.
I would NEVER play any kind of game with anyone.

Let me explain some of the details as to why I have been soooo slooooow in finishing my point:

First: Shortly after I started my response to Mark L's post, I sustained serious nerve damage to my leg. The damage was so severe that I could no longer walk or sit upright very long without aggravating the damage and causing a lot of pain. One of the positions that aggravates the damage is sitting at my computer. As I stated before; the only position that helps lessen the pain is sitting in a lounge chair with my feet up and a heating pad on the damaged area. Recovery has been very slow, as is common with nerve damage, and I have been too active at times which has caused the past and current delays in my response time.

Next: I am NOT a typist AT ALL!
What would take someone who can type three seconds takes me three minutes. I am VERY slow at "hunting and pecking" -m-y- -- -w-o-r-d-s- -- -o-n- -- -a- -- -k-e-y-b-o-a-r-d-.

And then: There are the dozens of re-writes I inevitably do; trying to be as clear as I can about

what I am saying.
Trust me, writing is something that I find especially difficult to do and I have to work very hard at it; which makes me slower than most.

Also: My computer is defective, it just turns itself off at any point in time;
Which means that I have to save two copies of anything I write every few seconds or so, or I could lose it and have to start all over again, that is, if I can remember what I was saying and how I said it!

Again I am sorry that it is taking so long, but, I am working on it as much as I can at this time.

His servant and yours

Tom

P.S.

Jman, your signature states:

"No faith stands that strongly impacts our (our children's) lives until we figure out why the signs and wonders are missing. Something is wrong."

I am glad that you asked "why the signs and wonders are missing", because the answer to that very question is the subject of my post on "faith".
Something IS wrong!

Also, what is your real name?

AND...

Sue,

I will get to your questions soon I hope, please have patience with me.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Fri, 08 Mar 2013 01:06:49 GMT

Smoking Flax (Tom) Message 9135 Nov 16,2012

It's been a long and bumpy road and we've been through a lot; including a six-year detour through the "Faith Message" which shipwrecked our trust in God. We have struggled with the issues of trusting God and relying on Him alone after being Self-Reliant "Overcomers," Members of God's Elite "End Time Army," trusting in Our Own Spiritual Prowess ("Faith") to get Us through this life and take Us to Our Special Rewards in heaven, reserved only for Those who â€œOvercomeâ€•.

We now believe the Biblical definition of faith.
********** **********

Tom:

Yes it has been a long road, but for me the Faith Message was a 4-lane Highway into Gods Word and Truth. It took me from total dependence on man to Trusting God for my every need. I was never taught by the Faith Message to be Self-Reliant: I was taught to Trust in The Lord ! Prov 3:1-6

I do want to be an Overcomer and be a part of Gods End Time Army, but it wonâ€™t Be thru my own power but thru Faith and Trust in His Word by His Grace & Mercy !

As being a part of Godâ€™s Elite, as you say you thought you were. That thought had Never crossed my mind in the years that I was at the Barn or in the New Building. I was so blessed that God had given me the opportunity to hear The Message of Faith and all that came with it. Elite, No! Humbled...Yes !

The Message of Faith was a Life Raft that took me out of the stormy waters and set My feet on A Solid Rock: Jesus Christ !

That being said:

I wait for your Biblical definition of faith.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Fri, 08 Mar 2013 02:52:00 GMT
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Quote:Tom Wrote;
First: Shortly after I started my response to Mark L's post, I sustained serious nerve damage to my leg. The damage was so severe that I could no longer walk or sit upright very long without aggravating the damage and causing a lot of pain. One of the positions that aggravates the damage is sitting at my computer. As I stated before; the only position that helps lessen the pain is sitting in a lounge chair with my feet up and a heating pad on the damaged area. Recovery has been very slow, as is common with nerve damage, and I have been too active at times which has caused the past and current delays in my response time.

Tom,
If your going through a sciatic nerve trial my heart goes out to you. For about three or four months I had to endure intense pain in my back and left leg. This is a horrible pain to have to endure. For months I went to work and sometimes had to leave early because of this pain. I could not stand up and to walk was very painful. If I tried to lay down the pain was unbearable so I ended up sleeping every night in a lazy boy recliner with ice packs on my leg.

I could not walk uprightly and was bowed over somewhat. Sometimes at work I would have to crawl or try to do jobs sitting down if it was possible. Most of my work was walking and climbing so I just trusted the Lord to help me get through each day.

If no one has ever had to go through this they cannot even imagine what it is like. Slowly over time the Lord improved my condition, finally it felt like pins and needles in my leg like it was asleep. As of today I am totally manifested and thankful for it.

Anyway you take all the time you need to get better.

Some of the posts here sounds like people are awful anxious for your definition of faith. The world is not going to end if we do not get everything we want when we demand it. You take as long as you want till your better.

I'll be interceding for you that God will help you in this trial.

Gary

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Mon, 25 Mar 2013 21:02:18 GMT
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Gary...

Thank you for your encouragement, understanding and prayer.
I really need it.

Tom

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Tue, 26 Mar 2013 01:12:51 GMT
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Tom

We must always remember if God be for us who can be against us. Jesus said, He would never leave us or forsake us.

Psalm 33:18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him,On those who hope in His mercy,
19 To deliver their soul from death,
And to keep them alive in famine.

Gary

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by JWBTI on Tue, 26 Mar 2013 01:49:33 GMT
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Tom:

God said:

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.
16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.
Psalms 91:14-16 (KJV)

Trust in His Word !

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Prov 4:20-22 (KJV)

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 06:03:42 GMT
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What is The Biblical Meaning of the Word Faith?

***

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, will, mind; and do not lean on your own understanding.

A dead calm is our enemy; a storm may prove our helper.
Controversy may arouse thought, and though thought may come the Divine change.
Charles Spurgeon

***

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.
It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes [great men].

There have always been only two choices for mankind:

TRUST IN GOD AND FOLLOW HIM!

OR,

TRUST IN MEN AND FOLLOW THEM!

Ever since I became a Christian, in 1980, men have been trying to convince me to trust, them instead of trusting Godâ€™s Word.

It has been my experience that the time has now come when:

â€œchristiansâ€• no longer put up with true, sound Biblical teaching; instead, they stand against it, they ardently resist it.
â€œchristiansâ€• no longer look for those who simply teach Godâ€™s Word; instead, they look for men who will please them by telling them only what they want to hear.
â€•christiansâ€• refuse to listen to, believe, or obey the truth of Godâ€™s Word; they do, however, listen to, believe, and obey manâ€™s philosophies, manâ€™s myths, manâ€™s fables, manâ€™s understanding, manâ€™s evolutionary â€œscienceâ€•; whatever is not true according to Godâ€™s Word.

I use the word â€œchristiansâ€• to denote unsaved religious people who believe themselves to be Christians;
But who are not true Christians; they are, in fact, false converts.
They are â€œchristianâ€• in name only; they have no fruit. Matthew 7:16-20, 12:33
They have never been born again by the Word of God. Psalm 119:155, 1Peter 1:23
They do not follow Jesus. John 10:3-5
They do not listen to, understand, or obey Godâ€™s Word. John 8:43-45,47
They are not, nor have they ever been, genuine Christians; They never had a real relationship with Jesus.
They are only â€œreligiousâ€• people, doing â€œchristianâ€• â€œworksâ€•. Matthew 7:21-27, Luke 13:24-28

I realize that Hobart Freeman believed that some of these verses prove that Christians can lose their salvation.
But I have come to understand, from Godâ€™s Word, that many of these versesâ€”Matthew 7:21-27, and Luke 13:24-28 in particularâ€”actually illustrate an infinitely more terrifying condition: being a false convert.
(For more on false converts and the eternal security of the believer, see note #1 below.)

In my testimony, How I Met The God of The Bible, I explained that:
It was simply by reading The Bible that God revealed Himself to me.
There were no men/persons involved in my salvation.
It was only through Godâ€™s Word The Bible thatâ€¦

God spoke directly to me.
God convicted me of my sins.
God convicted me of my absolute corruption, wickedness, perversity, depravity, evil.
God showed me that Jesus is The Way, The Truth, The Life, The Only Way to God.
God showed me that Jesus is Godâ€™s only Son, The Messiah, The Savior of the world.
God convinced me of my absolute need of Jesus alone for the forgiveness of my sins.
God saved me by His grace.
God persuaded me, through His Word, to believe what He said, to trust in Him, and rely on Him alone to bring it to pass.

***

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Our friend â€œJmanâ€• incisively and correctly points out:
â€œNo faith standsâ€¦until we figure out why the signs and wonders are missing. Something is wrong.â€•

I wish that, after I had left, someone would have helped me to see what was wrong: to show me what was wrong Biblically. I have often wished that someone who had left the â€œchurchâ€• would have explained what was wrong, by showing me from unambiguous verses in The Bible, with clear Biblical thinking and cogent Biblical understanding.

I am one of Jesusâ€™ sheep; I would have heard His voice through His Word and followed Him.
He that is of God: hears, listens to, understands, and obeys God's Words.
God tells us why â€œreligiousâ€• people will not hear, listen to, understand, and obey God's Words:
It is because they are not of God.
â€œBut you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said unto you.
My sheep hear, listen to, understand, and obey My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.â€•

Godâ€™s sheep cannot follow false teachers; they may try to, but, after a time they will stop listening to them and leave.
â€œAnd a stranger they will not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.â€•
â€œAll that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not listen to them.â€•

Everyone I have known, or heard of, who has left the â€œchurchâ€•, left based on their own ideas, their own feelings, their own desires, their own natural understanding, or some â€œanointedâ€• teacherâ€™s ideas, that they received from the man they are now following as a replacement for Hobart Freeman (or they are now following some new â€œProphetâ€•, â€œMovementâ€•, â€œChurchâ€•, â€œApostleâ€•, â€œTeachingâ€•).

The person who brought me into â€œThe Faith Message/Word of Faithâ€• left our â€œchurchâ€• years before I did, but, he didnâ€™t tell me why he left. He moved out of state and did not contact me at all.
He did, however, talk to my mother, and tell her â€œwhat was wrongâ€• with what we believed.
He explained to her that I needed to find out for myself; and that he felt he couldnâ€™t help me.
Sounds right; sounds mature; sounds spiritual; thereâ€™s just one problem: itâ€™s not Biblical.

Christians are required to; it is our responsibility to:

Proclaim Godâ€™s Word/Doctrines/Teachings:
Be urgent; earnest; persistent; whether or not the time is right:
Convict them, convince them, tell them what is wrong, blaming them for following what is wrong:
Find fault with and condemn as wrong what they are following; reprimand them:
Scold, reprove, utter words in anger, condemn that which is wrong, rebuke, blame them for their faults.
We must also encourage them with all patience and instruction.

And again:

Brethren, if any Christian wanders away from the truth, and one brings him back, turns him back to the truth; let him know, that he which brings back the sinner from straying, from delusion, from error, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

***

This brings me to the reason that I left â€œfaith assembly/the churchâ€•.

Although I knew people who left the â€œchurchâ€• because they disagreed with something that Hobart Freeman taught:
I never disagreed with anything Hobart Freeman taught.

A person I used to know very well, wanted to borrow money to build a house. He said he and his wife (also an â€œOvercomerâ€•) didnâ€™t â€œfeel comfortableâ€• being in a â€œchurchâ€• that didnâ€™t allow members to borrow money; so, they left, borrowed the money, and built their house.

Another person I also used to know very well, wanted to marry someone in the assembly who was divorced; so, they both left, and were married.

And, after Hobart Freeman gave his â€œteachingâ€• on hunting, many people strongly disagreed with it; but I was not one of them.

Steve Hill admonished us about what Hobart Freemanâ€™s â€œteachingsâ€• were:
â€œAre they The Word of God; The Fresh Bread from heaven; or, just the words of a man?â€•

I agreed 100% with Steve: when Hobart Freeman spoke he was not speaking just as a man, he spoke as a true â€œProphet of Godâ€•. He was speaking the words of God directly to us, words that we needed to hear in order for us to walk deeper with God, and to carry out Godâ€™s perfect will.

I believed Hobart Freeman was Godâ€™s â€œanointedâ€• teacher for the world at this time. Other â€œteachersâ€• may have had some things correct; but, only Hobart Freeman had everything correct! He was the man/Prophet that God had chosen to prepare His â€œEnd Time Armyâ€• to do the â€œGreater Worksâ€• promised by Jesus.

Those following â€œThe Faith Message/Word of Faithâ€• understand that God has called specially â€œanointedâ€• teachers to impart the â€œFresh Wordâ€• of God to us. These new â€œTeachingsâ€• (The Fresh Word of God) are Godâ€™s Word specifically designed for us at this time.

Shortly after I left, I was talking with several people who had also left the â€œchurchâ€• (but not â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•).
I made a statement that I thought was very conservative:
â€œI am only going to believe what is clearly taught in The Bible.â€•

One â€œOvercomerâ€• responded to this statement with a concerned admonition:
â€œIâ€™m not going to give up what I believe, just because itâ€™s not in the bible!â€•
I was amazed to see that no one disagreed with this statementâ€”apart from me and my wife.

I tried to explain to another â€œOvercomerâ€• who also had left the â€œchurchâ€• (but not â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•), that what he believed about Eveâ€™s temptation and fall into sin was not Biblical.
What he believed made God directly responsible for Eve falling into sin! In other words: God brought sin into the world through His own negligence!

But God said:
â€œNo temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear; but will with the temptation also

make a way to escape, that you may be able to endure it.â€•

God always provides a way for us to conquer every temptation to sin, each and every time that we are tempted.

When I tried to explain that what he believes cannot be true because it violates the clear teaching of Godâ€™s Word:

He told me, referring to The Bible,
â€œI donâ€™t care what it says; I know what I believe is true!â€•

Pointing to The Bible he told me derisively:
â€œMy god is bigger than â€˜that bookâ€™!â€•

But, God says:
The reason we roam from truth: - go astray, believe error, wander, go out of the way;
comes from not knowing/understanding His Word, nor His power/attributes. Matthew 22:29
The time will come when they will no longer believe Godâ€™s Word; and they shall turn away from listening to the truth of Godâ€™s Word, and shall believe fables, myths, lies of men. 2Timothy 4:3-4

After I left the â€œchurchâ€•, an â€œOvercomerâ€• who was very close to me personally, cut me off completely. Whenever I would see him, I could tell that he was obviously afraid of me. I believe he thought that I was one of those, who, in the last days, shall depart from â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•. I rarely saw him; however, when I did, I would try to talk to him about what God was showing me from His Word. But each time I tried to share Godâ€™s Word with him he was nervous and antagonistic toward me.
For example: since he was often fearful and anxious about losing his salvation; I tried to show him the clear promises of Jesus that we have eternal life and cannot lose it:

I was trying to help him see that God, our Father, can be counted on to keep us saved for eternity, and that He helps us to be faithful to Him; to which he countered: â€œYou must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;â€•
I then asked him to read the second half of that verse which says: â€œBecause it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.â€• But, instead of reading it with me; his angry response was â€œWHY!? BECAUSE YOU SAY SO!â€•
All I was hoping to do was to help him see that Godâ€™s Word says we can trust Him to help us, and to keep us saved.
I am sure that all â€œOvercomersâ€• know the first half of this verse by heart; but, I have never met one â€œOvercomerâ€• who even knew that there was a second half to this verse; much less, that in the second half of this verse God promises: He will always be at work in us; and that it is He who makes us willing and able to obey His own purpose, His will. In other words: It is God who

empowers us to be able to: work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

I know, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the only way I have been able to â€œwork out my own salvationâ€• for these last 33 years is: Because God is always working in me; making me willing and able to obey Him. Philippians 2:12-13, Hebrews 13:20-21, Jude 1:24, 2Timothy 1:12, Proverbs 21:1
I simply wanted to encourage him, by showing him from The Bible that; Godâ€™s grace can be relied upon to keep us saved and to empower us to obey Him!
For those of us who are following Jesus, and believe Godâ€™s Word, this is good news; not something to be angry about or afraid of.

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I know that many people left because of problems they had with other â€œOvercomersâ€• but, I didnâ€™t leave the â€œchurchâ€• because of problems with â€œOvercomersâ€•.

I knew many â€œOvercomersâ€• who were more worldly, carnal, mean-spirited, and hard hearted than any of the unsaved â€œPhilistinesâ€• or denominational â€œchristiansâ€• that I worked with.

One â€œOvercomerâ€• (I worked with him fifty hours a week for five years) went out of his way, almost daily, to belittle me, criticize me, ridicule me, and treat me with utter contempt and animosity.
After putting up with his abuse for five years; I finally confronted him about it after he launched into the most irate and vociferous tirade against me to date; a rant so loud that everyone in the building heard every hateful, angry word he screamed at me.
That evening, after work, I told him, as a professed â€œDeeper Life christianâ€• he was giving a bad witness to all of the people we worked with. He was showing them, daily, that being a â€œchristianâ€• made no difference at all in a personâ€™s life.
(One unsaved person, who worked with us, told me that this â€œchristian brotherâ€• had lied to our boss right in front of this unsaved person who knew the truth and watched as this â€œDeeper Life christianâ€• lied without any compunction whatsoever. Needless to say, he told everyone in the shop about the hypocrisy of this â€œOvercomerâ€•.)
In response to my confronting him, this â€œchristian brotherâ€• admitted that he had been treating me with contempt and resentment; but, he never asked for forgiveness; he never even said he was sorry for anything he had said or done to me: he simply admitted that it was true; he had done these things to me.
The only explanation he gave for persecuting me was, it bothered him that â€œbeing a spiritual person seemed to come so easilyâ€• to me.
In other words, he didnâ€™t like the fact that I was consistently behaving like a Christian on a daily basis; something he could only manage to do for two hours at â€œchurchâ€•. In fact, the only time I ever saw him â€œact christianâ€• was during â€œbody ministryâ€• where, in each and

every meeting, without fail, he would â€œprophesyâ€• of the â€œdeep thingsâ€• of God, and admonish us to walk the walk, not just talk the talk, etc.!

Another â€œOvercomerâ€• I knew, and worked with, revealed that he had the same hard heart as the Pharisees/hypocrites concerning the lost; and not the love, mercy and compassion for the lost that Jesus has. Luke 19:10, 15:4-7,10,20, Mat 9:13,36, 14:14, 23:23
The whole â€œchurchâ€• had watched a â€œchristianâ€• movie which exposed the strange practices of the New Age movement.
At one point the movie showed New Age practitioners chanting: Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! as they were preparing for â€œSpirit Guidesâ€• to enter their bodies and give them â€œEnlightenmentâ€•. Luke 11:35, 2Cor 11:14
The next day he was ridiculing these deceived, lost people, and laughing at them with contempt, as he repeated their chant in a mocking tone, â€œHoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!â€•
I asked him why he was laughing at them.
He told me, still laughing, â€œBecause, itâ€™s funny! I think itâ€™s funny!â€•
Saddened by the fact that he found the lost condition of these deceived people so entertaining, I told him:
â€•If it was you chanting: â€˜Hoo! Hoo! Hoo! Hoo!â€™ I would not be laughing.â€•
These were lost men and women, deceived by Satan, who were on their way to an eternity in the lake of fire;
How is that funny?
After I said this to him he never spoke to me again.

God points out that Pharisees/hypocrites have no concern for the lost; yet, they see themselves as doing Godâ€™s will better than anyone else:
God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican [or these deceived New-Agers; or those denominational â€œchristiansâ€•; etc.]. Luke 18:10-14, Matthew 9:10-13

Even though I did have problems with â€œOvercomersâ€•;
The reason I left had nothing to do with other people whatsoever.

***

The reason I left was me, not anyone or anything else! I was the reason I had to leave!

Hobart Freeman believed in and â€œtaughtâ€• sinless perfection: â€œWe are Saints; not aints.â€• â€œIt says if we sinâ€¦ not when we sin.â€• i.e., â€œOvercomersâ€• should be sinless, and I was not living a perfect, sinless life.
At one point, people in the assembly were openly repenting of sin during the meeting. James 5:16
As one brother, who was uncomfortable with all the open confessions of sin, put it:

â€œWhat if unsaved people come in here? They will think we arenâ€™t perfect.â€•
I was missing it, and I believed that God would judge our â€œassemblyâ€• if I didnâ€™t leave and get myself straightened out.
I didnâ€™t want to hold back my â€œovercomingâ€• brothers and sisters because of my imperfections/sins. Joshua 7:12-13

What drove me to leave the â€œchurchâ€• wasnâ€™t a concern about other peopleâ€™s lack of perfection:
I was deeply concerned about my own imperfections, my own sin!
I was afraid of the effect my sin would have on our assembly being used of God for the â€œGreater Worksâ€• ministry He was preparing them for. I was very sorry to have to go, but, I knew it was for the benefit of all my brothers and sisters who really were living a perfect, sinless, â€œovercomingâ€•, deeper life in the Spirit.

I left because I knew that I wasnâ€™t a very good â€œOvercomerâ€•.
(see note #2)

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God requires, that as His followers, we must:
Study [make an effort, be diligent] to show ourselves approved unto God, so we can be a workman that doesnâ€™t need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

I am asking you to please do this with me.

***

Grace and faith are the two most important words in the entire Bible!

Because:

â€œBy grace you have been saved, through faith;
This is not your own doing: it is the gift of God: not a result of anything youâ€™ve done, so that no one may boast.â€•

We are saved by Graceâ€¦
Graceâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Graceâ€¦ is the gift of God!
Graceâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
It is by Graceâ€¦ so that no one may boast.

Through faithâ€¦

Faithâ€¦ is not our own doing! Titus 3:4-5
Faithâ€¦ is the gift of God! Romans 12:3
Faithâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done! 1Cor 15:10, Ephesians 2:10
Through faithâ€¦ so that no one may boast. 2Peter 1:2-3, 1Peter 1:2-5, Galatians 6:14, 2Cor 10:17

You would think that every Christian would know the meaning of these two words:
Since correctly understanding and believing them are the foundation of our salvation.
But this has not been my experience.

I have asked numerous â€œchristiansâ€• for the definitions of grace and faith, and without fail these are the responses I have gotten:

Grace is the undeserved favor of God.

And, quoting Hebrews 11:1

â€œFaith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.â€•

I have found that â€œchristiansâ€• and even many true Christians also believe:
Faith is unquestioning belief; belief without any reason or evidence whatsoever: what some call â€œblind faithâ€•.

ANDâ€¦

Although most â€œchristiansâ€•, and even some true Christians, believe there is some kind of mysterious aspect to â€œfaithâ€•;

It is only â€œcharismaticsâ€• following â€œThe Faith Message/Word of Faithâ€• who believe that faith is an actual, tangible, spiritual substance; a real spiritual power which is released by us through the act of â€œbelievingâ€•: a power that we are required to obtain for ourselves; to store it up; to strengthen it; so that we will become â€œstrong in faithâ€•.

This is the same spiritual power that God used to make the universe:
â€œThrough [the spiritual substance of] faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of Godâ€•. Or,
We understand that it was through the spiritual substance of faith that God made everything by speaking the Word of Faith.

Not only is it up to us to acquire this spiritual power, but, we must also be able to use it.
The most important part of having â€œfaithâ€• is increasing our prowess/ability to use this power in our daily lives. (James 2:17-18,20,22; â€œThe just shall live [day by day, hour by hour, minute

by minute] by faithâ€•. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. When Jesus comes He will be looking for those who have (and use) this spiritual prowess).
We must have enough faith to enable God to do what we desire/need, i.e., receive the desires of our heart, prosper us, heal us, save us, save our families, etc.
Because, if we do not have enough of our own strong faith for God to use:
God can do nothing for us. Matthew 13:58, Mark 6:5-6

***

Satan understands that there is no way he can change the definition of the word grace.
Everyone understands that the primary meaning of the word grace is undeserved favor (of God).
I believe God wonâ€™t allow the meaning to be changed because that is how He saves usâ€¦ By Grace!

But Satan knowsâ€¦

The definition of the word faith can be made to seem more mysterious, ethereal, and mystical.
The definition of the word faith has been radically altered over time.
In fact, it has come to mean the exact opposite of its original Biblical definition.

This can be clearly seen in these dictionary definitions starting with the more recent dictionaries and going back in time.

1986: faith, belief without proof; belief without need of certain proof

1962, 1965: faith, a believing without proof

College edition 1953, 1958: faith, unquestioning belief; unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc.

If you go back far enough, the original definition of the word faith can be clearly seen, even in a common dictionary:
And that definition changes everything!
Faith is not belief without proof; or unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc.
Faith is belief based on reason and evidence.

WEBSTERâ€™S TWENTIETH-CENTURY DICTIONARY UNABRIDGED 1904-1936

Faith [faith, belief, trust, from fidere, to trust, confide in.]
The assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity.
Assent of the mind to a statement or proposition of another, on the ground of the manifest truth of such statement or proposition;

Firm and earnest belief, on probable evidence of any kind; as, I have a strong faith, or no faith, in the testimony of a witness.
The assent of the mind to what is given forth as a revelation of manâ€™s relation to God and the infinite;
a settled conviction in regard to religion; specifically, in Christian theology,
(a) belief in the historic truthfulness of the Scripture narrative and the supernatural origin of its teaching;
(b) the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of Godâ€™s testimony, accompanied by a cordial ascent of the will or approbation (admitting as true and assenting to) of the heart;
entire confidence or trust in Godâ€™s character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unreserved surrender of the will to his guidance, and dependence on his merits for salvation; also called Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith.

WEBSTERâ€™S 1828 DICTIONARY

FAITH, n. L. fides, fido, to trust; Gr. to persuade,
1. Belief; the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgment that what another states or testifies is the truth.

2. The assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another; belief, of probable evidence of any kind.

3. In theology, the assent of the mind or understanding to the truth of what God has revealed.

4. Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith, is the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony, accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unreserved surrender of the will to his guidance, and dependence on his merits for salvation. In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will, and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation.

I brought in these dictionary definitions to show you that, not long ago, it wasnâ€™t only true Christians who understood the exact meaning of the Biblical word faith: everyone understood it!

The Belief of our Reason is an Exercise of Faith, and Faith is an Act of Reason.

It is not reason that is taking my faith away: on the contrary, my faith is based on reason.
It is my imagination and emotions [that are taking my faith away].
The battle is between faith and reason on one side and emotion and imagination on the other.

***

What Is The Biblical Meaning Of The Greek Word Translated â€œFaithâ€•?

Anyone who is teaching Godâ€™s Word, has a responsibility to be sure that the meaning of a word translated into English is the actual meaning of the Greek word, before he uses that word to teach anything i.e., theology or a Biblical principle.
Take baptism, church, saint; these words no longer have the same meaning in English that they have in the Greek.
They have been transliterated or mistranslated instead of being translated.
So, any correct Biblical teaching/theology/principle has to be based upon the actual meaning of the word, not its current incarnation/deviation.

What follows is an example of how a wrong translation of a single word can give an unbiblical twist to Jesusâ€™ character, and the Biblical truth concerning Godâ€™s forgiveness of our sins: when we repent of our sins, God forgives our sins, and He never remembers them again. He certainly does not through them back in our faces.

This â€œtwistâ€• is in reference to the Greek meaning of the word(s) translated â€œloveâ€• in John 21:15-17.

I have 29 different versions of the Bible/bible, plus 3 Greek versions.
Five of them are Godâ€™s Word: Bibles written by God to us.
Twenty-four were written by religious natural men, for religious natural men, containing religious natural manâ€™s wisdom, philosophies, and beliefs; I call these versions â€œbiblesâ€•: the majority of â€œchristiansâ€•/unsaved religious people; love, believe and follow these versions â€œreligiouslyâ€•.

In all but four of these versions, it appears that Jesus is exacting retribution, for Peter having denied him three times, by asking Peter three times if he â€œlovedâ€• Him:
â€œPeter was grieved because He said unto him the third time [for the third time], do you love me?â€•

I saw this scene acted out in a â€œchristianâ€• movie; shown on a â€œchristianâ€• television network.
When â€œJesusâ€• asks Peter the first time, it was uncomfortable; the question seemed out of character for â€œJesusâ€•. Why would â€œJesusâ€• promote contention among â€œHisâ€• apostles: pitting the devotion of Peter against the devotion of all the other apostles?
When less than a minute passes, and â€œJesusâ€• asks the same question the second time, you start to wonder: what is wrong with â€œJesusâ€•; why is he picking on poor Peter?
And then, a short time later, when â€œJesusâ€• asks the same question for the third time; you really start to dislike this â€œJesusâ€• who is petty and pedantic, mean-spirited and cruel.

This â€œJesusâ€• seemed to enjoy tormenting Peter â€œthree timesâ€• in retaliation for denying Him â€œthree times".
This â€œJesusâ€• is a tit-for-tat; youâ€™ll pay for denying me, â€œlordâ€•, who is not someone any thinking person would want to follow.
The â€œJesusâ€• of this â€œchristianâ€• movie, is not the Jesus of The Bible.

Jesus was not asking Peter the â€œsame questionâ€• three times, humiliating and castigating Peter in front of the other disciples, in order for Peter to â€œatoneâ€• for his sin of denying Him three times.

If any of that were true, Jesus would be badgering Peter about past sins that he had repented of and received forgiveness for! Luke 22:61-62 (Is there any significance in the fact that God gave Peter a vision â€œthree timesâ€•? Or, that He sent â€œthree menâ€• to Peter from Cornelius? I Think Not! Acts 10:9-19)

This translation cannot be correct, because it violates a clear teaching in Godâ€™s Word:
When God forgives our sins He forgets them. God tells us that He never remembers our sins anymore after we repent of them: â€œHe has not dealt with us according to our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has pity on his children, so the LORD pities them that fear Him.â€• Psalm 103:10-13 â€œI will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no moreâ€• Jeremiah 31:31-34.

It also portrays Jesus in a way that is not consistent with the rest of Godâ€™s Word: Jesus, setting one of His apostles against the others; and exacting retribution for past sins by cruel public humiliation. Matthew 11:29-30

Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance shows us that two different words for love are used in these passages.

Jesus used the word G25 Agapao, deeply love; used of divine love (John 14:21); and of that love which the law demands (Luke 10:27).
But Peter used the word G5368 Phileo, to be a friend to; to be fond of; to have affection for. It is a lesser degree of love.

This passage does not show Jesus picking on Peter for past sins; but, instead, we see Jesus helping Peter to understand that He accepts the fact that Peterâ€™s love for Him is not as deep as it should be.
Jesus is helping Peter to do something that God alone does for anyone who follows Him.
At least, it is what He always does for me: My heavenly Father always helps me to â€œface myself and thinkâ€•.

To see myself as I really am, according to Godâ€™s perspective; and to think about myself as I really am, according to Godâ€™s perspective i.e., He helps me to stop leaning on my own understanding.

Now look at the passage understanding that there are two different words for love used here. Understanding that Jesus asked Peter three different questions; not the same question three times, which would have been cruel and vindictive.

So when they had dined, Jesus said to Simon Peter,
Simon, son of Jonas, do you deeply love Me, more than these [things]?
Peter said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I have affection for You.
Jesus said to him, Feed My lambs.
Jesus said to him again the second time,
Simon, son of Jonas, do you deeply love Me?
Peter said to Him, Yes, Lord; You know that I have affection for You.
Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.
Jesus said to him the third time,
Simon, son of Jonas, do you have affection for Me?
Peter was grieved because Jesus said to him the third time, do you have affection for Me?
And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I have affection for You.
Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

Jesus did not ask Peter the same question over and over and over again. Jesus asked Peter three different questions.
What grieved Peter was that, the third time, Jesus asked him if he really did have â€œa friendly feelingâ€• toward Jesus.

Apart from â€œstudyingâ€• the meaning of the two different Greek words translated as â€œloveâ€• in John 21; you would not know that Jesus is asking three different questions; not one question over and over and over again.
Because most of the English Bibles translate these passages incorrectly; you could come to the wrong conclusion about Who Jesus actually is. These translations portray Jesus as resentful, mean and vindictive which is not the Jesus of The Bible.
In relation to our repentance for our sin: the Jesus of The Bible is forgiving, compassionate, merciful, meek and lowly in heart.

Back to the question:

What Is The Biblical Meaning Of The Greek Word Translated â€œFaithâ€•?

The Biblical definition of the word which is translated faith is persuasion.

FAITH [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G4102 pistis (From G3982; Believe)

Persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Persuasion
1. The act of persuading; the act of influencing the mind by arguments or reasons
2. The state of being persuaded or convinced; settled opinion or conviction proceeding from arguments and reasons

Credence
1. Belief; credit; reliance of the mind on evidence of facts derived from other sources than personal knowledge, as from the testimony of others

Conviction
1. The act of proving, determining to be guilty of an offense charged against a person before a legal tribunal; as by the verdict of a jury.

Reliance
1. Rest or repose of mind, resulting from a full belief of the veracity or integrity of a person, or of the certainty of a fact; trust; confidence; dependence. We may have perfect reliance on the promises of God

Constancy
1. Fixedness; a standing firm 2. Fixedness or firmness of mind; 3. Certainty; veracity; reality.

Veracity n. [L. verax, from verus, true.]
1. Habitual observance of truth, or habitual truth 2. Invariable expression of truth

BELIEVE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G3982 peitho (the root word of faith)
A primary verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty): - agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) content, make friend, obey,[b]

persuade, trust, yield.

Convince v.t. [L., to vanquish.]
1. To persuade or satisfy the mind by evidence; to subdue the opposition of the mind to truth
2. To convict; to prove 3. To substantiate; to prove.

Believe (pisteuo): is used 250 times throughout the New Testament and is translated: believe, believers, believing, believest, believeth, believed, trust. Its origin is from the word Faith.

BELIEVE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G4100 pisteuo (From G4102)
to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially oneâ€™s spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

Credit
1. Belief; faith; a reliance or resting of the mind on the truth of something said or done.

Trust
1. Confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person.
2. He or that which is the ground of confidence.

Confidence
1. A trusting, or reliance; an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, or in the truth and reality of a fact.

Biblical Faith is:
Persuasion in what God tells us, which convinces us to believe God, and to trust in God, and to rely on God alone to perform what He said in His Word.

***

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substanceâ€¦

The biblical meaning of the word faith is clear; it means persuasion.

The biblical meaning of the word substance is also clear.

Substance [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G5287 hupostasis
From a compound of G5259: hupo, under; and G2476: histemi, to stand; a setting under (support)

You can see the basis of the word substance, when you take the word apart, sub and stance: sub; under, beneath, and stance; to stand. Foundation would be a better translation of the word.

So instead of faith being a spiritual substance of power and our prowess/ability to use it; Hebrews 11:1 would be better translated as:

Now persuasion is the foundation of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Or expanded it could read:

Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God, and reliance on God alone is the foundation of everything I hope for;
Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God, and reliance on God alone is the evidence of things I have not yet seen.

There is no â€œpowerâ€• in biblical faith.
The word faith simply means God has persuaded us through His Word, to believe Him/believe His Word, and because we believe Him, we trust in Him, and rely on Him alone to fulfill His Word, His Promises to us.

Biblical faith is not belief/faith in our own mastery of a â€œSpiritual Substance of Powerâ€•, what some have described as â€œhaving faith in our own faithâ€•.

***

Grace and Truth came by Jesus The Messiah.

Godâ€™s Grace, on the other hand, does contain THE POWER OF GOD TO CHANGE US SPIRITUALLY, ETERNALLY.

GRACE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G5485 charis
From G5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially
The divine influence upon the heart, [Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit

within me.]
And its reflection in the life; [Order my steps in your word: and do not let any iniquity/wickedness have dominion over me.]
Including gratitude): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Graciousness n. Kind condescension.

GRACE [Thayerâ€™s Greek Definitions]
G5485 charis
2) good will, loving-kindness, favor
2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues.

God, [Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace.]
Exerting His holy influence upon souls, [No man is able to come to Me if he is not given the power to do so by My Father. Make me to go in the path of Your Commandments.]
Turns them to Christ, [No man is able to come to Me if the Father who sent Me does not give him the desire to come.]
Keeps, [Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. I know Him in whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.]
Strengthens, [Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. I can do all things through Messiah who strengthens me.]
Increases them in Christian faith, [The Christian doctrines/persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God. Go on fighting strongly for the Christian faith which was once delivered to the saints. God has dealt to every man The Measure of faith [persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God].]
Knowledge, [In Messiah are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.]
Affection, [Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.]
and
Kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues. [Now the God of peaceâ€¦ make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.]

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Back to Ephesians 2:8-9

â€œBy grace you have been saved, through faith; This is not your own doing:
It is the gift of God: not a result of anything youâ€™ve done, so that no one may boast.â€•

We are saved by graceâ€¦
Graceâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Graceâ€¦ is the gift of God!
Graceâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
It is by Graceâ€¦ so that no one may boast.

Through faithâ€¦
Faithâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.
Faithâ€¦ is the gift of God!
God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.
Faithâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
Through faithâ€¦ so that no one may boast.
Grace and peace be multiplied unto youâ€¦ according as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.
Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Fatherâ€¦ Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God alone unto salvation.
But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.
But he that boasts, let him boast in the Lord.

There have always been only two ways: Godâ€™s way, or manâ€™s way.

By Grace you have been saved, through faith!

Is itâ€¦
I am saved by grace, through My Faith!

I am saved by grace; which God only gives, because I released My Spiritual Power of Faith.
It is only because I released My Spiritual Power of Faith, that God can save me by grace.

Orâ€¦

I am so persuaded by God, Who said He saved me by His Grace, that I believe I am saved by His Grace, and I trust in His gift of Grace for my salvation, and I rely on His free gift of Grace alone to save me for eternity.

Either God gets all the Glory! And no one has anything at all to boast of.
1 Corinthians 1 :30-31, 15:10, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:4-10, 4:6-7, 5:20, Philippians 4:19, Colossians 1:12-14, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 4:11, 5:6,10-11

Orâ€¦

Man gets the Glory; and we can boast of our own accomplishments. Luke 18:11-14, James 4:13-16

For a Christian it is obvious: Salvation, of body, soul, and spirit; is of The LORD! God Alone Gets All The Glory!

The difference can be seen in which word we emphasize in the question asked by Jesus: â€œWhere is your faith?â€•

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that He went into a ship with His disciples: and He said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed He fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, â€œMaster, master, we perishâ€•. Then He arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And Jesus said unto them, â€œWhere is your faith?â€• Luke 8:22-25

As â€œOvercomersâ€• we were taught:
Jesus was rebuking them for coming to Him for help!
He was chastising them for not trusting in their own faith; for not relying on their own faith; for not using their own faith to get them out of trouble:

â€œWhere is your faith?

Where is your own spiritual prowess!? Your ability to use the spiritual power of your own faith!?

You should have used your own spiritual prowess to stop the boat from sinking!
This is something that you should have been able to do for yourselves ! You should not have needed Me to do it for you!

In the other point of view:
Jesus is simply admonishing us to trust and rely on God, our Father; no matter what the situation.

â€œWhere is your faith?â€•

Where is your persuasion in God that causes you to believe Him, to trust in Him, and rely on Him to keep us safe, even in the midst of this storm?
Jesus tells us to have persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God.

Againâ€¦

And when Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus said to them, Do you believe that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yes, Lord. Then He touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. Matthew 9:27-29

What is the emphasis?
Let it be unto you according to your faith: according to your prowess/ability to use the spiritual power of your own faith.

But Jesus didnâ€™t ask them if they had enough faith to receive healing;
Jesus asked them: â€œDo you believe that I am able to do this?
Their answer was yes, Lord Jesus; we believe that You are able to do this.
According to your faith, [/b]According to your persuasion in God, that causes you to believe Him, to trust in Him, and to rely on Him to give you your sight.

The truth about the real meaning of the word â€œfaithâ€• can be seen in these juxtapositions:

It is persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God and reliance on God alone?
Orâ€¦
It is trusting in your own spiritual prowess; relying on your own ability to use this spiritual substance of power?

The just shall live by his own spiritual prowess.
Or,
The just shall live by persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God.

Your own spiritual prowess has saved you.
Or,
Your persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God has saved you.

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your own spiritual prowess is spoken of throughout the whole world.
Or,
I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your persuasion in God, belief in God, trust and reliance in God is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Whatsoever is not of your own spiritual prowess is sin.
Or,
Whatsoever is not of persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God is sin.

Have your own spiritual prowess in God.
Or,
Have persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God.

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through your own spiritual prowess in His blood.
Or,
Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in His blood.

Without your own spiritual prowess it is impossible to please God.
Or,
Without persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God it is impossible to please Him.

Romans 10:17 â€œSo then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.â€•
Or, this expanded version:
â€œSo then persuasion in God comes by listening to instruction, moreover, listening to instruction through that which has been uttered by the Living Voice of Godâ€•.

So then your own Spiritual Power/Prowess comes by hearing!
Or,
So then persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God comes by hearing the Word of God.

One is reliance on your own â€œfaithâ€•.
As he was â€œteachingâ€• about Romans 10:17, an â€œanointedâ€• faith teacher said: If I need faith for something that I am â€œbelieving forâ€•, I just say it out loud; and when I hear myself speak, that brings faith: because, faith comes by hearing!

The other is looking to God alone.
Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God and reliance on God alone comes from listening to the Word of God.

If, as one â€œanointed teacherâ€• said: â€œGod never does anything out of compassion. God only responds to [your] Faith!â€•;
Why then does God speak about/respond to/act upon His own will, mercy and compassion so many times?
Matthew 8:2-3, 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34, Mark 1:40-41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, Luke 5:12-13, 7:12-15, 9:11, 13:11-13, 10:33, 15:20
Romans 9:15, Hebrews 5:2, 1 Peter 3:8, Jude 1:21-22

If Jesus believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
When His apostles asked Him to â€œincrease their faithâ€• He would have told them that to make their faith strong they needed to exercise it daily like a muscle, by â€œbelieving Godâ€• for their desires, needs, etc.; letting their faith (spiritual substance) â€œstand in the gapâ€• until the full manifestation of what they are â€œbelieving forâ€• comes to pass.

Instead, Jesus told them:
If they had persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God, as small as a grain of mustard seed, that would be enough to do the impossible.
Jesus did not teach that we need to build up our â€œfaithâ€•; instead, He knew that our heavenly Father has given to each of us â€œThe Measureâ€• of faith, and that is more than enough.

If Peter believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
Why didnâ€™t he teach it after he and John had healed the lame man at the gate called Beautiful?
This would have been the perfect time to teach â€œthe faith messageâ€• to those who were wondering how this healing had occurred. Peter would have explained that it was his own Spiritual Substance of Power, his own Spiritual Prowess, which came from his great Faith that healed this man.

Instead, Peter told them:
Why do you look so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
Peter then preaches Jesus The Messiah to them and reveals how the man was healed:
And His name; Jesusâ€™ Name, Authority, Character; through persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in Jesusâ€™ Name, Authority, Character, has made this man strong. Luke 9:1-2, 10:1,9,16-17

Peter tells them it was Jesus The Messiah who healed this man not their own â€œspiritual prowessâ€•.

If Paul believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
He would have told Timothy to continue drinking that contaminated water and â€œbelieve Godâ€• to make it pure for him.
He also would have â€œconfessedâ€• perfect health over both Timothy and Trophimus.

Instead, Paul told Timothy:
Do not drink the water any longer [because it is contaminated], but use a little wine for your stomach's sake [it will help heal your stomach sickness] and your often infirmities. Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

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Back to â€œJmanâ€™sâ€• insightful statement: â€œNo faith standsâ€¦until we figure out why the signs and wonders are missing. Something is wrong.â€•

Jesus told us to â€œgo into the whole world, and preach the gospel to everyone. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming The Word with signs following. Amen.â€•

The answer is clear when you understand what Jesus said He would confirm with signs following.

Jesus promised to confirm only one thing with signs following: â€œThe Gospel according to Godâ€™s Wordâ€•.
If there are no signs, it is because we are preaching a different Gospel; not the Gospel according to Godâ€™s Word!

The â€œfaith messageâ€• is a false gospel.

The â€œfaithâ€• of â€œThe Faith Messageâ€• is based upon an incorrect English translation and a misunderstanding of the definitions of two Greek words, pistis (faith) and hupostasis (substance).
And,
An unbiblical, foundational emphasis based on only four words: â€œfaith is the substanceâ€•:
Which is believed to mean: â€œfaith is a spiritual substanceâ€•, â€œa spiritual substance of

powerâ€•.

The â€œfaith messageâ€• teaches faith as a work that we are responsible to produce for ourselves, for our own salvation:
Thy Faith Has Saved Thee! You must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling!

The Biblical word â€œfaithâ€• cannot be the foundation for a belief in a mystical, spiritual substance of â€œpowerâ€• released by us when we truly â€œbelieveâ€• because: faith means persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God: and, sub-stance means foundation.

The â€œfaith messageâ€• is a false gospel designed by men, who â€œuseâ€• Godâ€™s Word to teach unbiblical doctrines that seem correct/Biblical to those of us who are following them, because, they â€œuseâ€• the Bible to â€œproveâ€• their unorthodox teachings as â€œchristianâ€•.
These men apply a form of â€œbiblicalâ€• interpretation called eisegesis; which allows them to interject their own personal ideas/beliefs/understanding into their â€œinterpretationâ€• of the bible; which they then present as â€œbiblicalâ€• by means of biblical â€œproof-textingâ€•. They start by taking their own unbiblical doctrine(s) and then â€œseek outâ€• verses that say/prove what they believe; providing â€œproofâ€• from the â€œtextâ€• of the bible that it is â€œbiblicalâ€•. This often requires that certain words, or even whole verses, be taken out of their context, in order to be â€œunderstoodâ€• as they need/wish them to be.

Take for instance the teaching that we alone are responsible to keep ourselves â€œsavedâ€•; which was (along with other verses) proof-texted with : â€œYou must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.â€•
Sounds right, it is what the Bible says. But, we were never told to read the second half of the verse, which adds:
â€œBecause it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.â€•
The balance provided by Godâ€™s word, persuades us that we can believe Him and trust in Him and rely on Him, to make sure that we not only desire to do His will; but, that God our Father, will empower us, by His Grace, to actually do His will.

This one should be very familiar:
We were taught to be careful about the words that we speak, because, just like God, we have the â€œpowerâ€• to â€œspeak things into beingâ€•. And, because we have this â€œpowerâ€•, we must not make any â€œnegative confessionsâ€• which can â€œsnareâ€• us, and cause us to not receive whatever it is we are â€œconfessing into beingâ€•.
And the proof-text offered for this â€œbiblical truthâ€•:
â€œYou are snared by the words of your mouth, you are taken by the words of your mouth.â€•
But when you look at the context of this verse, you find that, once again, it is only half of the sentence; which in context actually reads:
â€œMy son, if you are surety for your friend [co-signer of his loan], if you have stricken your hand

with a stranger [given your word that you will do something],
You are snared by the words of your mouth, you are taken by the words of your mouth.â€•
This simply means that, if a friend asks you to be a co-signer of his loan; and you promise that you will take on this obligation; or you promise to do something for a stranger:
Because â€œyou gave your wordâ€•; you are obligated (â€œsnaredâ€•) to keep your word/promise. Because, as a follower of The God of The Bible, Who says regarding promises He makes: â€œGod is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: has He said, and shall He not do it? or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?â€•: we are also required to keep our word whenever we give it. Matthew 5:37

The â€œfaith messageâ€•, as it is currently believed/practiced, began with the teachings of a man named E.W. Kenyon.
I know that Hobart Freeman told us not to look into Kenyonâ€™s past or teachings; but, after I left the â€œchurchâ€•, I did.
I needed to find out what was wrong with what I believed.

You may remember Tom Hamiltonâ€™s adage:
â€œPeople say that what we teach sounds like â€œchristian scienceâ€•! Itâ€™s not â€œchristian scienceâ€•; itâ€™s christian sense.â€•

In 1892, E.W. Kenyon attended Emerson College, a â€œspiritualâ€• institution inundated with metaphysical, cultic ideas and practices. Unitarianism, Metaphysics, New Thought, and Mary Baker Eddyâ€™s â€œchristian scienceâ€• were some of the â€œspiritualâ€• influences advocated and taught to students at this school.
Charles Mallory, a frequent guest lecturer at the college, said of Emerson College, This is a school where the philosophy of life is taught. It ought to be called, â€œThe First Church of Emerson.â€•
The college was named for its founder Charles Wesley Emerson, who was a believer in, and an advocate of:
Unitarianism, Metaphysics, New Thought, Mary Baker Eddyâ€™s â€œchristian scienceâ€•, and Phineas P. Quimby (Eddyâ€™s mentor).

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When any Christian (or even an unbeliever) raises questions about what I believe; I am obligated to search out the answers to those questions and be willing to accept that I may be wrong (according to Godâ€™s Word) about what I believe. Especially if their concerns are based upon the clear teaching of Godâ€™s Word.
As Christians, we must listen to every brother and sister in Jesus, and trust/believe that they are trying to help us to turn back to God; this is why God illustrates our relationship to each other as a â€œbodyâ€•, and as brothers and sisters in Messiah Jesus.

Just like a family we are responsible for each other, and we are required to watch out for each other, and to help each other walk uprightly, according to The Truth of Godâ€™s Word.

We must:
Examine everything carefully; and hold fast to that which is good.

We are responsible to try to help everyone that comes across our path. Luke 10:29-37
We are responsible to help those brothers and sisters who have strayed from the truth, gotten caught in error, or false teaching:
â€œBrethren, if any Christian wanders away from the truth, and one brings him back, turns him back to the truth; let him know, that he which brings back the sinner from straying, from delusion, from error, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.â€•
According to Godâ€™s Word, we are our brotherâ€™s and sisterâ€™s keeper.

The following is an example of what happened when I tried to help an â€œOvercomerâ€• to see that he may not be a Christian at all; but, only a false convert; a â€œreligiousâ€• person.

I knew him most of my life; but he cut me out of his life after we became â€œOvercomersâ€•.
He was â€œsavedâ€• believing â€œthe faith messageâ€•.
He has never exhibited any Christian fruit as long as I have known him. He is exactly the same as he was before he â€œgot savedâ€•; except that he now goes to â€œchurchâ€•, something that many â€œreligiousâ€• people do.
He doesnâ€™t follow Godâ€™s Word The Bible. Instead, with unquestioning devotion, he follows â€œanointedâ€• men.
He has never been an example of how following Jesus changes us into Christians who demonstrate to the world through our new lifeâ€”our spiritual new birthâ€”that a born-again believer in Jesus The Messiah thinks, acts and speaks like Jesus; and doesnâ€™t think, act or speak like a worldly man any longer. Romans 6:6, 2Corinthians 5:17, 6:17,
He once got a friend of his (also an â€œOvercomerâ€•) to lie to me in an email, in order to try to trick me into reading something from him; even though I made it clear to him I didnâ€™t want to read any more of his unbiblical beliefs. Colossians 3:8-9, Titus 3:10

One example of his worldliness: Like many unsaved men, he did, and still does, use the â€œfâ€• word frequently. When I told him that using the â€œfâ€• word is not a good witness for a follower of Jesus, he said, completely unconcerned about my admonition, â€œDo you really think that god cares about the words we say?â€•

I pointed out to him that The God of The Bible does care about the words coming out of our mouths:
â€œA good tree does not bring forth corrupt fruit; neither does a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble

bush do they gather grapes.
A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good;
And an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil:
For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
And again:
â€œHow can you, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth [speaks] good things:
And an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth [speaks] evil things.
But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.â€• Ephesians 4:29-32

Butâ€¦

He did not believe Godâ€™s Word.
Even though what he believes clearly contradicts Godâ€™s Word; he still believed that he was right.
He wasnâ€™t moved at all by the words of Jesus.
Why didnâ€™t he believe what Jesus said?

Jesus explains why people do not believe what He says:
You do not believe [what I say], because you are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
He that is of God hears, listens to, and obeys God's words: you therefore do not hear, listen to, and obey them, because you are not of God.

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This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.
But in vain do they worship me, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.
You ignore God's commandments, and you are holding on to the teachings that men have made up.
And he said unto them, Full well you reject the commandment of God, so that you may keep your own tradition.

Either we are following the teachings of men or we are following God according to His Word.
The following story illustrates the point:

Not long ago, my wife and I invited an â€œassistant pastorâ€• (he held a job as a â€œpastorâ€• for 25 years) from a local â€œBaptistâ€• â€œchurchâ€• to have him look into Godâ€™s Word

with us to discuss the doctrines we hold as being Biblical i.e., clearly taught in the Bible. We thought we would start with something easy, like marriage/divorce/and remarriage, or tongues. We were trying to find out how anyone could possibly ignore the clear definition of adultery given by Jesus in Matthew 19:3-12, and allow anyone to remarry; regardless of Jesusâ€™ one and only exception for remarriage; or annul the Biblical truth of â€œtonguesâ€• as plainly taught in 1Corinthians 14; hoping to dispel the misunderstanding about tongues, that comes from not recognizing that God is speaking about three different â€œkindsâ€• of tongues in this chapter.

I thought the best way to start was to have us read these verses together, and then talk about them: simple enough?
Butâ€¦
As our friend started to â€œreadâ€• from his Bible, my wife and I tried to follow along with him but couldnâ€™t. We were all using the King James Version; yet, not even one word that he â€œreadâ€• from his Bible could be found in our King James Bibles. At first this caused much confusion; where are the words that he is â€œreadingâ€• from his bible? Why arenâ€™t those words in our Bibles?

Then it dawned on us what was happening:
Instead of reading Godâ€™s Word to guide us/teach us about tonguesâ€¦ he was â€œreadingâ€• into his bible the â€œBaptistâ€• doctrine of how â€œtonguesâ€• had passed away and were no longer necessary for the â€œchurchâ€• during this time etc., etc., etc.

This not only astounded us, it became a valuable lesson, illustrating a serious problem endemic in the â€œchurchâ€• and in â€œchristiansâ€•:
They cannot read, believe, understand, follow, or obey Godâ€™s Word; because they only read, believe, understand, follow and obey the doctrines of men.

This man was hoping to indoctrinate us into the â€œBaptistâ€• â€œteachingâ€• about â€œtonguesâ€•.
What he did not know was that we are Jesusâ€™ sheep, Christians, who know, believe and follow God/Godâ€™s Word. We cannot follow manâ€™s teachings.

Without knowing it, this â€œpastorâ€• became the â€œposter-boyâ€• to illustrate exactly what is wrong with the â€œchurchâ€• at this point in time: when â€œchristiansâ€• â€œreadâ€• Godâ€™s Word, they can only hear what men told them to hear; they can only believe what men told them to believe; they can only understand what men told them to understand.

This â€œpastorâ€• was incapable of even reading Godâ€™s Word without interjecting manâ€™s interpretation/doctrines directly into the text of the Bible as he â€œreadsâ€• it.

This is frightening! Imagine what it would be like to never again hear from God through His Word. To only believe and follow what men tell you to believe and follow? To be incapable of reading

Godâ€™s Word without filtering it through manâ€™s ideas/interpretation/doctrines/beliefs. To always read Godâ€™s Word with a veil over your heart and mind.
Their minds were blinded: for until this day remains the same veil not taken away in the reading of Godâ€™s Word; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Godâ€™s Word is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Matthew 13:9, 13-15
They teach man-made ideas as if they were the Word of God.

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I believe Godâ€™s people today are in the same position they were in when Jesus first came to turn them back to God/Godâ€™s Word: they didnâ€™t believe or even know the Word of God anymore, because their â€œreligiousâ€• â€œleadersâ€• were teaching their own doctrines and not The Word of God. Mark 1:22,27, 11:18, Luke 4:32,36, John 7:15-17, Matthew 7:28, 22:33, 2 Cor 2:17, Colossians 2:18-22 2Tim 4:1-4, Titus 1:9-16

In the Bible, Christians are those who believe, trust and follow Jesus the Messiah. The Jesus revealed in Godâ€™s Word.

Throughout my life I have met, and know of, many people who identify themselves as:
â€œCatholicsâ€•
â€œJehovahâ€™s Witnessâ€™â€•
â€œLutheransâ€•
â€œRed Letter christiansâ€•
â€œBaptistsâ€•
â€œMethodistsâ€•
â€œMormonsâ€•
â€œCharismaticsâ€•
â€œOvercomersâ€•

And they admit they are following:
The Pope/church
The Watchtower/Awake/prophets
Martin Luther/church
The Social gospel/socialist/communist/â€•reformersâ€•
Baptist teachings?
The Social gospel/socialist/communist/â€•reformersâ€•

The Book of Mormon/Joseph Smith/Brigham Young/prophets
Anointed teachers/apostles/prophets/the Holy Spirit/the still small inner voice/personal revelations/â€•revelation knowledgeâ€•
The Faith Message/anointed teachers/apostles/prophets/the Holy Spirit/the still small inner voice/personal revelations/â€•revelation knowledgeâ€•

I once found someone online who had almost the exact/same testimony as mine, except, at the end of my testimony,
I became a Christian, a follower of Jesus The Messiah.
And at the end of his testimony, he became a â€œchristianâ€• AND, a â€œLutheranâ€•.

â€œchristiansâ€• are â€œreligiousâ€• people who are following men instead of following Jesus through Godâ€™s Word.
All the unbiblical beliefs that they hold to while disregarding the clear teaching of Godâ€™s Word to the contrary, are proof that they are following men and not God: Infant baptism, â€œSacramentsâ€•, the â€œEucharistâ€•, the â€œMassâ€•, if you go to â€œchurchâ€• you are a â€œchristianâ€•, etc.

These are more beliefs, taught by men, which are not found anywhere in the New Testament:

â€œPleading The Blood of Jesusâ€•,
â€œBelieveing God Forâ€•,
â€œAnointedâ€• teachers,
Only â€œanointedâ€• teachers can â€œteachâ€• Godâ€™s Word,
â€œThe Fresh Bread from Heavenâ€•/â€œThe New Word of Godâ€•,
â€œTouch not the Lordâ€™s anointed!â€•
Negative/positive â€œconfessionsâ€•,
We have the power to â€œspeak things into beingâ€•, just like God,
Christians calling themselves â€œThe End Time Army of Godâ€•,
Christians calling themselves â€œOvercomersâ€•,
Christians living a â€œDeeper Lifeâ€•,
â€œThe faith messageâ€• i.e., faith is a Spiritual Power.

â€œJmanâ€• states: â€œAt the time of this postâ€¦ FA, the satellites, the spinoffs, and the FA diaspora have been having church without apostles for 41 years and 63 days.â€•

This can only be true if you donâ€™t believe:

â€œThe word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the

desires and thoughts of the heart. There is nothing that can be hidden from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before His eyes. And it is to Him that we must all give an account of ourselves.â€•

Or:

â€œAll scripture is God breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.â€•

Christians have never been without Godâ€™s apostles or prophets because God tells us:

We are of the household of God; and the household of God is built upon
â€œthe foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.â€•

The Church of God has never been without His apostles and prophets;
Godâ€™s people never will be without apostles and prophets as long as we continue to listen to/believe/obey Godâ€™s Word The Bible.

It is religious manâ€™s â€œchurchâ€• that is without Godâ€™s apostles and prophets.

Any child of God can listen to/believe/obey any of Godâ€™s true apostles and prophets any time we desire; with complete confidence and assurance that we are hearing The Eternal Word of God written for us at this present time: and this same Word will teach us throughout all of eternity.

Because only Jesus spoke Eternal Words; Only Jesus has The Words of Eternal Life:
â€œHeaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.â€•
â€œIf a man loves Me, he will keep My Words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him. He that does not love Me does not keep My Sayings: and the Word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me.â€•
God made His Word greater than all His Name. Psalm 138:2
We have been born again by the living and eternal Word of God. 1Pet 1:23
Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Godâ€™s Word. Psalm 119:155
Now all these things [from the Old Testament] happened unto them as examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 1Cor 10:11

Jesus always taught Godâ€™s Word. John 7:16-17, 14:24

***

As I said in an earlier post: I am looking for Christians.

Christians like the one I called concerning a tract that I believe isnâ€™t Biblical in its emphasis on our â€œsuffering for Christâ€•.

I wrote about this in an earlier post, it is a true story about an exchange I had that could have ended in anger and resentment on the part of the person I was talking with/questioning/trying to help. But, instead, his reaction was one of friendship, brotherly love and a teachable spirit: like Apollos in Acts 18:24-26 and the Bereans in Acts 17:11-12

I came across a tract that seemed to be encouraging us to suffer in a deeper way, so we could add our serious physical and emotional suffering to the suffering of Jesus The Messiah. Like the Roman Catholic's believe.

I called the ministry listed on the tract and asked the man who answered if he was familiar with it. He said he was not (because they print so many tracts) and I proceeded to tell him why I thought the tract was not Biblical, i.e., it was promoting an idea of God's purpose in our suffering that was not Biblical.

I once had a "pastor" tell me that I shouldn't be telling Christians what the Word of God says, because, "That will offend them."

Reallyâ€¦ Christians offended by Godâ€™s Word?
I am a Christian. I love to hear and read and talk about God's Word. I have never been offended by hearing God's Word. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Convictedâ€¦ Yes! Challengedâ€¦ Certainly! Helpedâ€¦ Always! Offended? NEVER!

Anyway...

This person could have "reacted" in anger and self-defense: who do you think that you are!? This is my ministry! I answer to God alone! I donâ€™t care what you or anyone else thinks or says about my tracts: I know that they are right! I would never put out a tract that was not Christian or Biblical! I will thank you to keep your opinions to yourself!

He could have said that... After all, I was questioning his ministry.

He could have... But he didn't.

Instead...

He promised me that because he wasn't familiar with the tract, he would get it, read it, and

re-evaluate it in the light of what I had brought to his attention.

And thenâ€¦
We started telling each other how great it was that Jesus was our Lord and Savior.
He told me what God was currently doing in his life. I was encouraged to see the hand of God working in this man's life.
And then I told him about the things that God was doing in my life. Throughout our conversation we were quoting the Scriptures that God was working into our lives daily.

My saying at that time was: this is not just what God's Word says: this is what He is actually doing in my life right now!

Through sharing God's Word with each other, God was showing us that we truly were brothers in Messiah Jesus. We knew that we were both sheep belonging to Jesus The Shepherd. Even though we had only met a few minutes before; I knew this man was a true Christian. I knew because of his love for God's Word and for me (John 13:35). I knew because of the way he reacted to my "criticism" of his ministry. He acted just like a man that wants to show Jesus to everyone that comes across his path. He treated me with respect and kindness, just as Jesus would. He acted as if we had been close brothers all of our lives; and he was truly glad that I had cared enough to point out something to him that might need to be looked into or changed.

I was delighted to have had the opportunity to share with my brother all the things that God had been doing in my life.
And we both praised Jesus for all He had done in our lives!

Think about it...

I called him to point out something I thought was wrong (which took about 4 minutes to explain);
And for the rest of our conversation (about 20 minutes):
We both got side-tracked into praising Jesus! And talking about what Jesus was doing in our lives today!
I really enjoyed sharing Godâ€™s Word with him, and hearing how God was speaking to him through His Word!

JESUS was the center of everything that we thought and said during our time together. It Was Great!

I have been looking for Christians like this man; but I can't seem to find any.
I will keep looking and remember that I once met a stranger who was more like a true brother (in every sense of the word) than any "christian" I have ever met. I thank God for our short time together, and I look forward to talking to him again.

When I started my journey with Messiah Jesus, my wife, my two brothers and I used to sit around with our Bibles open and talk about The Word of God. We used to discuss the Scriptures we had read, and how great Godâ€™s Word was. Those days were a great time of fellowship with each other around Godâ€™s Word. But, those times of sharing Godâ€™s Word ended when we joined â€œfaith assemblyâ€• and I lost Christian fellowship with my brothers.

My first love was Jesus/God's Word. I would read my Bible (ten chapters) every day and talk about Jesus/Godâ€™s Word with every person I met. Deut 6:6-7. I was insatiable.
This is what I believe Jesus meant about us recognizing that we had forsaken our first love, to remember where we were (spiritually) before we fell, and to stop going any farther in the wrong direction and repent (turn around), and do the first works again. Rev 2:4-5

God â€œwoke me upâ€• when I returned to my first love, about six years ago.
Now this is what I am holding on to: the salvation of my heart, soul, mind, body, and spirit by the Grace of God, which is the power of God, to keep me saved, and to keep me safe with Him, now and for eternity.

I am persuaded by what God says to me in The Bible,
To believe what God says to me in The Bible,
To trust in God as my heavenly Father,
And to rely on my heavenly Father, to keep the promises, that He has persuaded me to believe.

I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
Which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.
As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
But I declare to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.
For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

If you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

Set Free by Jesus: The Word of God.

His servant and yours

Tom

You can email me at: asmokingflax@live.com

***

notes

#1
I realize that Hobart Freeman believed that some of these verses â€œproveâ€• that Christians can lose their salvation.
He believed that God cannot save us from our selves; from our own natural tendency to wander away from Him.
Freeman taught that God can save us; but, God cannot keep us saved: staying saved depends entirely on us.

It is completely up to us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling!

Many men believe this; it was first taught by a man named Jacobus Arminius (1560â€“1609).

But, I believe God.
I am persuaded by Godâ€™s Word, to believe what He said, and to trust and rely on Jesus alone
Who taught:
â€œWhoever eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
I believe, trust and rely on Jesus who tells me I have eternal life! I already possess eternal life!
John 5:24, 6:35,37,39,40,44,47,50,51,54,57,58, 10:27-29, 11:25-26
He did not say that I have a chance at eternal life depending entirely on me.
He also promised to raise me up at the last day, â€•I will raise him up at the last day.â€•
He did not say, â€œI may raise him up at the last day; but, that depends entirely on what he does with his lifeâ€•.
And in Matthew 7:21-27 Jesus said: â€œI never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.â€•
If this verse taught that you could lose your salvation, Jesus would have said:
â€œI knew you at one time, when I saved you; but, you walked away from Me, and I no longer know you.â€•
But Jesus said I NEVER knew you; you were NEVER one of My sheep.
â€œMy sheep hear My voice, and

I KNOW them, and
They follow Me: and
I give to them eternal life; and
They shall NEVER [no, not at all, not by ANY means] perish, [The word â€œneverâ€• is a double negative; there isnâ€™t any way at all for His sheep to perish!]
Neither shall ANY PERSON take them out of My hand.â€• [I myself am a â€œpersonâ€• so this promise includes me.]

Every Work of God is Perfect, Complete, Lacking Nothing.
It is an insult to Godâ€™s Intelligence, Mercy and Compassion to say He doesnâ€™t understand that:
When it comes to our ability to obey God: we are our own worst enemies.
Godâ€™s Perfect Work of Salvation would have to include saving us from our own unbelief, our own faithlessness, our own wandering, our own disobedience, our own sinfulness, our own wickednessâ€¦ in other words:
Our sinful, hopeless, evil, SELVES! Romans 3:10-12, Jeremiah 4:22, Micah 7:2, Luke 18:19

The Eternal Security of the Believer is too large a topic to go into here, butâ€¦ I will tell you that:
I am persuaded by Godâ€™s Word, to believe what He said, and to trust and rely on Jesus alone to save me and keep me from EVERY THING/EVERY SIN that could cause me to fall away from Him.
I know that God started this work in me and He promises to finish it i.e., get me to heaven. Philippians 1:6, 1Peter 1:3-5, Psalm 37:5-6, 138:8, Isaiah 46:11b
I am persuaded, that nothing shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Jesus The Messiah my Lord.
Because I love Godâ€™s Law/Word I have great peace: and nothing shall cause me to fall. Psalm 119:165
I have gone astray like a lost sheep many times; but God always seeks His servants, sheep, children who wander away from Him; for I do not forget His Commandments/Word. Psalm 119:176, Luke 15:1-32

***

#2
I knew something was wrong!
I couldnâ€™t understand why my relationship with Jesus had become so distant and unreal when it had started out so intimate and just as real as my relationship with my wife. We were assured this was simply a trial of our â€œfaithâ€•, and that we needed to keep pressing forward â€œwalking by faith, not by feelingâ€•, which I did; but this just added to my desperation and sense of loss which helped to convince me that for the benefit of the assembly I should leave; so, I did.

The effect of my leaving was:

Just as He did when I first started reading His Word; God began speaking to me again.
I cried out to God; why are you so distant? (James 4:8) What is wrong?
The first thing He did was give me a vision:
It was of a large cylinder or drum that should have been turning, but, it was rusted and couldnâ€™t turn at all:
It wasnâ€™t working anymore.
He led me to understand that what wasnâ€™t working anymore was my ability to think:
â€œYou must love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, MIND, and strength.â€•
He let me know that I had stopped using the mind He gave me to understand His Word; which is critical because:
â€œWhen any one hears the Word of the Kingdom, and doesnâ€™t understand it, then the wicked one comes, and takes away that which was sown in his heart.â€•
The mind He gave me to reason with Him: â€œCome let us reason togetherâ€•.
The mind He gave me to convince the unsaved of the truth of Godâ€™s Word:
â€œAlways be ready to give an answer to everyone that asks you to give the reason for the hope that is in youâ€•.
â€œAnd Paul, as his manner was, went in among them, and on three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scripturesâ€• Acts 17:2, 18:4,19, 24:25

Since I was no longer listening to the teachings of men:
God could once again speak to me through His Word The Bible; just as He did when He started His relationship with me.
â€œYou have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works.â€•

My first love and my first works were listening to and obeying God as He would speak to me through His Word, and I was joyfully working out my own salvation with fear and trembling, as God changed my will, to desire to do His will. He also empowered me to carry out His will; which was to change me daily, by His Grace, into the image of Jesus.

Rememberâ€”as I stated in my testimonyâ€”no man talked me into becoming a Christian.
No one witnessed to me: I was completely alone; it was just me and Godâ€™s Word.
God convinced me of my desperate sinfulness, my indefensible guilt, and my absolute need of Jesus The Messiah to save me from the eternal punishment I had earned, as He spoke directly to me through His Word The Bible.

My foundation, when God first started His relationship with me, was His Word The Bible.
The only time I ever listened to men, instead of Godâ€™s Word, was when I was following Hobart Freeman and â€œThe Faith Messageâ€•.
And, little by little, my personal connection to Jesus slipped away, as I substituted â€œthe faith messageâ€• for a relationship with Jesus through Godâ€™s Word.

***

The Dangers of Believing Error

In the first place, every deviation from the truth is a sin. It is not simply a sin for me to do a wrong act, but it is a sin for me to believe a wrong doctrine. Lately our ministers have absolved us all from obeying God in our judgments; they have told us point blank, (many of them, in their drawing-rooms, and some of them in the pulpit) that we shall never be asked in the Day of Judgment what we believed. We have been told that for our actions we shall be responsible, but for our faith we shall be irresponsible (or something very much like it). They have told us plainly, that the God who made us, although He has authority over our hands, our feet, our eyes and our lips, hath but little authority over our judgments; they have told us, that if we make ever such blunders in divinity, there are no sins, so long as we can live right lives. But is that true? No: the whole man is bound to serve God; and if God gives me a judgment, I am bound to employ that judgment in His service; and if that judgment receives an untruth, it has received stolen goods, and I have sinned as much as if I put forth my hand to take my neighborâ€™s goods. There may be degrees in the sin. If it be a sin of ignorance, it is nevertheless a sin; but it is not so heinous as a sin of negligence, which I fear it is with many.

I tell you, beloved, if, for instance, baptism be not immersion, I commit a sin every time I practice it; and if it be, my brother commits a sin who does not practice it. If election be true, I am committing a sin if I do not believe it; and if final perseverance be true, I am committing a sin before Almighty God, if I do not receive it; and if it be not true, then I sin in embracing what is not scriptural. Error in doctrine is as much a sin as error in practice. In everything we are bound to serve our God with all our might, exercising those powers of judging and believing which He has given unto us; and I warn you, Christians, not to think it is a little thing to hold faith with a feeble hand: it is a sin every time you do aught which makes you waver in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Remember, too, that error in doctrine is not only a sin, but a sin which has a great tendency to increase. When a man once in his life believes a wrong thing, it is marvelous how quickly he believes another wrong thing. Once you open the door to a false doctrineâ€”(Satan says it is but a little one)â€”ai, but he only puts the little one in like the small end of a wedge, and he means to drive in a larger one; and he will say it is only a little more, and a little more, and a little more. The most damnable heretics who ever perverted the faith of God erred by littles and littles; those who have gone the widest from truth have only gone so slowlyâ€¦by degreesâ€¦

Take care, Christians, if you commit one error, you cannot tell how many more you will commit. â€œHold fast the form of sound words,â€• (That is what the apostle Paul commanded Timothy. Because error in doctrine almost inevitably leads to error in practice. When a man believes wrongly, he will soon act wrongly. Faith has a great influence on our conduct. As a manâ€™s faith, so is he. If you begin to imbibe erroneous doctrines, they soon have an effect on your practice.)

Keep fast to the bulwarks of your Fatherâ€™s faith. If you do not, the enemy will make sad havoc with you. â€œHold fast (as scripture says) the form of sound words which was delivered unto you.â€•

Charles Spurgeon

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The obvious way to understand any doctrine taught in the Word of God; especially paradoxes, is to:

Subject the obscure to the straightforward.
The Bible is clear about many things, so always allow that which is clear to be a guide in unraveling that which is not clear.
In other words, trust the perspicuity (clarity, plainness, intelligibility, transparency) of Scripture.
As the old adage goes, "Let the main things be the plain things; and the plain things be the main things."

***

The main difference between a Christian and a religious person is that a Christian understands that it is God who does everything for us by His Grace, and we will always seek to bring Him the glory. Galatians 2:20, 1Cor 1:27-31

As a Christian teacher succinctly put it:

Christianity is 100% God; and 100% us.

â€œWork out your own salvation with fear and trembling, because it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.â€•
â€œBut by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain;
but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
â€œNow the God of peaceâ€¦ make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.â€•
Eph 2:8-10, Gal 2:20, Heb 13:20-21, 2Tim 1:12, Jude 1:24, Prov 21:1

This perspective has helped me greatly as I continue my relationship with my heavenly Father, through His Word/His Son Jesus/His Holy Spirit.

Christians understand that we are only unprofitable servants.

Does the Master of the servant thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.
So you likewise, when you shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, â€œWe are unprofitable servants: we have only done that which was our duty to do.â€•

As followers of Jesus The Messiah, we understand that we are only doing what God already meant/planned for us to do.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us,
Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together with Messiah, (by Grace you are saved;)
And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Messiah Jesus:
That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His Grace in His kindness toward us through Messiah Jesus.
For by Grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.
For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 07:06:50 GMT
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Hi sue...

I am sorry that I took so long to answer you, but I have had a lot on my plate lately.

I said I would answer your questions, so here I go...

You said:
Just wondering who this anointed faith teacher was. It would be hard for me to believe a true teacher wouldnâ€™t be able to have faith that God created the world just because of what a person
from a Creation Seminar said.

* You probably wouldnâ€™t know him he was the second in command at our â€œfaith assemblyâ€•.

If you think about the teaching on Heb 11:8, where we were taught that true â€œfaithâ€• is â€œblind faithâ€•.
â€œBlind faithâ€• requires NO EVIDENCE AT ALL; because Romans 8:24 and Hebrews 11:1 "teach" that we must have our own â€œfaithâ€• â€œto stand in the gapâ€• until we receive the â€œmanifestationâ€• of what we are â€œbelieving God forâ€•.

None of this is Biblical but Hobart Freeman, who received it from E.W. Kenyon, still believed it.
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You said:
Who are these Word of Faith teachers?
I donâ€™t want to assume you mean teachers from Faith Assembly or the other meetings.
Or do you mean some of the teachers on TV who promote a seed faith, give to get message?

* All of â€œthe faith teachersâ€•, everyone of them, received the same â€œfaith messageâ€• from the same â€œteacherâ€•:

Hobart Freeman got it from Kenneth Hagin; Kenneth Hagin plagiarized/stole it, sometimes word for word, from E.W. Kenyon;
Who got it from a â€œSpiritualâ€• college he attended in Boston, where he learned â€œspiritualâ€• ideas from
Mary Baker Eddyâ€™s â€œchristian scienceâ€• and other non-Christian and occult â€œspiritualâ€• teachers and teachings at that college.

I realize that Hobart Freeman tried to distance himself from the other â€œfaith teachersâ€• especially on JDS.
But all of the teachings/beliefs/practices/ideas of â€œThe Faith Messageâ€• come from one source, one man only:

E.W. Kenyon; he and he alone is The Father, Author, and Originator of â€œThe Faith Message/Word of Faith/Faith Teachings/Faith Teachersâ€• etc.

Anything that has to do with the idea of â€œFaith being a Spiritual Substance, a Spiritual Substance of Powerâ€• and all that it entails,
comes from E.W. Kenyon.

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I hope this answers your questions.
Again I am sorry that I was so late in giving you my answers.

I noticed that you havenâ€™t participated in any of the posts I have submitted to date.
My hope is that you are thinking about what Godâ€™s Word The Bible says relating to â€œfaithâ€•;
Instead of what we were taught to think about it.

His Servant and yours

Tom

You can E-Mail me at AsmokingFlax@live.com

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by A_Smoking_Flax on Fri, 21 Jun 2013 07:08:50 GMT
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*** What is the Biblical Meaning of the Word "Faith"? ***

Grace and faith are the two most important words in the entire Bible!

Because:

â€œBy grace you have been saved, through faith;
This is not your own doing: it is the gift of God: not a result of anything youâ€™ve done, so that no one may boast.â€•

We are saved by Graceâ€¦
Graceâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Graceâ€¦ is the gift of God!
Graceâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
It is by Graceâ€¦ so that no one may boast.

Through faithâ€¦
Faithâ€¦ is not our own doing! Titus 3:4-5
Faithâ€¦ is the gift of God! Romans 12:3
Faithâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done! 1Cor 15:10, Ephesians 2:10

Through faithâ€¦ so that no one may boast. 2Peter 1:2-3, 1Peter 1:2-5, Galatians 6:14, 2Cor 10:17

You would think that every Christian would know the meaning of these two words:
Since correctly understanding and believing them are the foundation of our salvation.
But this has not been my experience.

I have asked numerous â€œchristiansâ€• for the definitions of grace and faith, and without fail these are the responses I have gotten:

Grace is the undeserved favor of God.

And, quoting Hebrews 11:1

â€œFaith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.â€•

I have found that â€œchristiansâ€• (unsaved "religious" people) and even many true Christians also believe:
Faith is unquestioning belief; belief without any reason or evidence whatsoever: what some call â€œblind faithâ€•.

ANDâ€¦

Although most â€œchristiansâ€•, and even some true Christians, believe there is some kind of mysterious aspect to â€œfaithâ€•;

It is only â€œcharismaticsâ€• following â€œThe Faith Messageâ€• who believe that faith is an actual, tangible, spiritual substance; a real spiritual power which is released by us through the act of â€œbelievingâ€•: a power that we are required to obtain for ourselves; to store it up; to strengthen it; so that we will become â€œstrong in faithâ€•.

They believe it is the same spiritual power that God used to make the universe:
â€œThrough [the spiritual substance of] faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of Godâ€•. Or,
We understand that it was through the spiritual substance of faith that God made everything by speaking the Word of Faith.

Not only is it up to us to acquire this spiritual power, but, we must also be able to use it.
The most important part of having â€œfaithâ€• is increasing our prowess/ability to use this power in our daily lives. (James 2:17-18,20,22; â€œThe just shall live [day by day, hour by hour, minute by minute] by faithâ€•. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. When Jesus comes He will be looking for those who have (and use) this spiritual prowess).

We must have enough faith to enable God to do what we desire/need, i.e., receive the desires of our heart, prosper us, heal us, save us, save our families, etc.
Because, if we do not have enough of our own strong faith for God to use:
God can do nothing for us. Matthew 13:58, Mark 6:5-6

*** The Meaning of "Faith" Has Changed ***

Satan understands that there is no way he can change the definition of the word grace.
Everyone understands that the primary meaning of the word grace is undeserved favor (of God).
I believe God wonâ€™t allow the meaning to be changed because that is how He saves usâ€¦ By Grace!

But Satan knowsâ€¦

The definition of the word faith can be made to seem more mysterious, ethereal, and mystical.
The definition of the word faith has been radically altered over time.
In fact, it has come to mean the exact opposite of its original Biblical definition.

This can be clearly seen in these dictionary definitions starting with the more recent dictionaries and going back in time.

1986: faith, belief without proof; belief without need of certain proof

1962, 1965: faith, a believing without proof

College edition 1953, 1958: faith, unquestioning belief; unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc.

If you go back far enough, the original definition of the word faith can be clearly seen, even in a common dictionary:
And that definition changes everything!
Faith is not belief without proof; or unquestioning belief in God, religion, etc.
Faith is belief based on reason and evidence.

WEBSTERâ€™S 1828 DICTIONARY

FAITH, n. L. fides, fido, to trust; Gr. to persuade,
1. Belief; the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgment that what another states or testifies is the truth.

2. The assent of the mind to the truth of a proposition advanced by another; belief, of probable evidence of any kind.

3. In theology, the assent of the mind or understanding to the truth of what God has revealed.

4. Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith, is the assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation, on the authority of God's testimony, accompanied with a cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart; an entire confidence or trust in God's character and declarations, and in the character and doctrines of Christ, with an unreserved surrender of the will to his guidance, and dependence on his merits for salvation. In other words, that firm belief of God's testimony, and of the truth of the gospel, which influences the will, and leads to an entire reliance on Christ for salvation.

Not long ago, it wasnâ€™t only true Christians who understood the exact meaning of the Biblical word faith: everyone understood it!

The Belief of our Reason is an Exercise of Faith, and Faith is an Act of Reason.

It is not reason that is taking my faith away: on the contrary, my faith is based on reason.
It is my imagination and emotions [that are taking my faith away].
The battle is between faith and reason on one side and emotion and imagination on the other.

*** Three Related Greek Words: Pistis, Peitho, Pisteuo ***

What Is The Biblical Meaning Of The Greek Word Translated â€œFaithâ€•?

Anyone who is teaching Godâ€™s Word, has a responsibility to be sure that the meaning of a word translated into English is the actual meaning of the Greek word, before he uses that word to teach anything i.e., theology or a Biblical principle.
Baptize, church, saint; these words no longer have the same meaning in English that they have in the Greek.
Any correct Biblical teaching/theology/principle has to be based upon the actual meaning of the word, not its current, popular, incarnation/deviation.

For example, in John 21:15-17, there are two different Greek words, with two different meanings, both translated as â€œloveâ€•.
When you understand that two different kinds of â€œloveâ€• are used, you then understand that Jesus did not ask Peter the same question three times, but, Jesus actually asked Peter three different questions.

The Biblical definition of the word which is translated faith is persuasion.

FAITH [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G4102 pistis (From G3982; Believe)

Persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Persuasion
1. The act of persuading; the act of influencing the mind by arguments or reasons
2. The state of being persuaded or convinced; settled opinion or conviction proceeding from arguments and reasons

Credence
1. Belief; credit; reliance of the mind on evidence of facts derived from other sources than personal knowledge, as from the testimony of others

Conviction
1. The act of proving, determining to be guilty of an offense charged against a person before a legal tribunal; as by the verdict of a jury.

Reliance
1. Rest or repose of mind, resulting from a full belief of the veracity or integrity of a person, or of the certainty of a fact; trust; confidence; dependence. We may have perfect reliance on the promises of God

Constancy
1. Fixedness; a standing firm 2. Fixedness or firmness of mind; 3. Certainty; veracity; reality.

Veracity n. [L. verax, from verus, true.]
1. Habitual observance of truth, or habitual truth 2. Invariable expression of truth

BELIEVE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G3982 peitho (the root word of faith)
A primary verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty): - agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) content, make friend, obey,[b] persuade, trust, yield.

Convince v.t. [L., to vanquish.]

1. To persuade or satisfy the mind by evidence; to subdue the opposition of the mind to truth
2. To convict; to prove 3. To substantiate; to prove.

Believe (pisteuo): is used 250 times throughout the New Testament and is translated: believe, believers, believing, believest, believeth, believed, trust. Its origin is from the word Faith.

BELIEVE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G4100 pisteuo (From G4102)
to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), that is, credit; by implication to entrust (especially oneâ€™s spiritual well being to Christ): - believe (-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with.

Credit
1. Belief; faith; a reliance or resting of the mind on the truth of something said or done.

Trust
1. Confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person.
2. He or that which is the ground of confidence.

Confidence
1. A trusting, or reliance; an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, or in the truth and reality of a fact.

Biblical Faith is:
Persuasion in what God tells us, which convinces us to believe God, and to trust in God, and to rely on God alone to perform what He said in His Word.

*** The Greek Word Translated Substance ***

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substanceâ€¦

The biblical meaning of the word faith is clear; it means persuasion.

The biblical meaning of the word substance is also clear.

Substance [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive

Concordance of The Bible]
G5287 hupostasis
From a compound of G5259: hupo, under; and G2476: histemi, to stand; a setting under (support)

You can see the basis of the word substance, when you take the word apart, sub and stance: sub; under, beneath, and stance; to stand. Foundation would be a better translation of the word.

So instead of faith being a spiritual substance of power and our prowess/ability to use it; Hebrews 11:1 would be better translated as:

Now persuasion in Godâ€™s Word is the foundation of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Or expanded it could read:

Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God, and reliance on God alone is the foundation of everything I hope for;
Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God, and reliance on God alone is the evidence of things I have not yet seen.

There is no â€œpowerâ€• in biblical faith.
The word faith simply means God has persuaded us through His Word, to believe Him, and because we believe Him,
we trust in Him, and rely on Him alone to fulfill His Promises to us.

Biblical faith is not belief/faith in our own mastery of a â€œSpiritual Substance of Powerâ€•, what some have described as â€œhaving faith in our faithâ€•.

*** The Full Meaning of the Word Grace ***

Grace and Truth came by Jesus The Messiah.

Godâ€™s Grace, on the other hand, does contain THE POWER OF GOD TO CHANGE US SPIRITUALLY, ETERNALLY.

GRACE [Strongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of The Bible]
G5485 charis
From G5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially

The divine influence upon the heart, [Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.]
And its reflection in the life; [Order my steps in your word: and do not let any iniquity/wickedness have dominion over me.]
Including gratitude): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Graciousness n. Kind condescension.

GRACE [Thayerâ€™s Greek Definitions]
G5485 charis
2) good will, loving-kindness, favor
2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues.

God, [Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace.]
Exerting His holy influence upon souls, [No man is able to come to Me if the Father who sent Me does not give him the desire to come. Make me to go in the path of Your Commandments.]
Turns them to Christ, [No man is able to come to Me if he is not given the power to do so by My Father.]
Keeps, [Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. I know Him in whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.]
Strengthens, [Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. I can do all things through Messiah who strengthens me.]
Increases them in Christian faith, [The Christian doctrines/persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God. Go on fighting strongly for the Christian faith which was once delivered to the saints. God has dealt to every man The Measure of faith (persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God).]
Knowledge, [In Messiah are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.]
Affection, [Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.]
and
Kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues. [Now the God of peaceâ€¦ make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.]

*** Christians Are God Centered ***

Back to Ephesians 2:8-9

â€œBy grace you have been saved, through faith; This is not your own doing:
It is the gift of God: not a result of anything youâ€™ve done, so that no one may boast.â€•

We are saved by graceâ€¦
Graceâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Graceâ€¦ is the gift of God!
Graceâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
It is by Graceâ€¦ so that no one may boast.

Through faithâ€¦
Faithâ€¦ is not our own doing!
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.
Faithâ€¦ is the gift of God!
God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.
Faithâ€¦ is not a result of anything weâ€™ve done!
But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
Through faithâ€¦ so that no one may boast.
Grace and peace be multiplied unto youâ€¦ according as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness.
Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Fatherâ€¦ Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God alone unto salvation.
But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.
But he that boasts, let him boast in the Lord.

There have always been only two ways: Godâ€™s way, or manâ€™s way.

By Grace you have been saved, through faith!

Is it man centered?
I am saved by grace, through My Faith!
I am saved by grace; which God only gives, because I released My Spiritual Power of Faith.
It is only because I released My Spiritual Power of Faith, that God can save me by grace.

Or, is it God centered?

I am so persuaded by God, Who said He saved me by His Grace, that I believe I am saved by His Grace, and I trust in His gift of Grace for my salvation, and I rely on His free gift of Grace alone to save me for eternity.

Either God gets all the Glory! And no one has anything at all to boast of.
1 Corinthians 1 :30-31, 15:10, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:4-10, 4:6-7, 5:20, Philippians 4:19, Colossians 1:12-14, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 4:11, 5:6,10-11

Orâ€¦

Man gets the Glory; and we can boast of our own accomplishments. Luke 18:11-14, James 4:13-16

For a Christian it is obvious: Salvation, of body, soul, and spirit; is of The LORD! God Alone Gets All The Glory!

The difference can be seen in which word we emphasize in the question asked by Jesus: â€œWhere is your faith?â€•

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that He went into a ship with His disciples: and He said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed He fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, â€œMaster, master, we perishâ€•. Then He arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And Jesus said unto them, â€œWhere is your faith?â€• Luke 8:22-25

As â€œOvercomersâ€• we were taught:
Jesus was rebuking them for coming to Him for help!
He was chastising them for not trusting in their own faith; for not relying on their own faith; for not using their own faith to get them out of trouble:

â€œWhere is your faith?

Where is your own spiritual prowess!? Your ability to use the spiritual power of your own faith!?
You should have used your own spiritual prowess to stop the boat from sinking!
This is something that you should have been able to do for yourselves ! You should not have needed Me to do it for you!

The Christian point of view is looking only to God and not ourselves.
Jesus is simply admonishing us to trust and rely on God, our Father; no matter what the situation.

â€œWhere is your faith?â€•

Where is your persuasion in God that causes you to believe Him, to trust in Him, and rely on Him to keep us safe, even in the midst of this storm?
Jesus tells us to have persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God.

Againâ€¦

And when Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus said to them, Do you believe that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yes, Lord. Then He touched their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. Matthew 9:27-29

What is the emphasis?
Let it be unto you according to your faith: according to your prowess/ability to use the spiritual power of your own faith.

But Jesus didnâ€™t ask them if they had enough faith to receive healing;
Jesus asked them: â€œDo you believe that I am able to do this?
Their answer was yes, Lord Jesus; we believe that You are able to do this.
According to your faith, According to your persuasion in God, that causes you to believe Him, to trust in Him, and to rely on Him to give you your sight.
(The Father that dwells in Me, He does the works.)

So then your own Spiritual Power/Prowess comes by hearing!
Or,
So then persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God comes by hearing the Word of God.

One is reliance on your own â€œfaithâ€•.
As he was â€œteachingâ€• about Romans 10:17, an â€œanointedâ€• faith teacher said: If I need faith for something that I am â€œbelieving forâ€•, I just say it out loud; and when I hear myself speak, that brings faith: because, faith comes by hearing!

The other is looking to God alone.
Persuasion in God, belief in God, trust in God and reliance on God alone comes from listening to the Word of God.

If, as one â€œanointed" teacher said: â€œGod never does anything out of compassion. God only responds to [your] Faith!â€•;
Why then, does God speak about/respond to/act upon His own will, mercy and compassion so many times?
Matthew 8:2-3, 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34, Mark 1:40-41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, Luke 5:12-13, 7:12-15, 9:11, 13:11-13, 10:33, 15:20
Romans 9:15, Hebrews 5:2, 1 Peter 3:8, Jude 1:21-22

If Jesus believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
When His apostles asked Him to â€œincrease their faithâ€• He would have told them that to make their faith strong they needed to exercise it daily like a muscle, by â€œbelieving Godâ€• for their desires, needs, etc.; letting their faith (spiritual substance) â€œstand in the gapâ€• until the full manifestation of what they are â€œbelieving forâ€• comes to pass.

Instead, Jesus told them:
If they had persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God, as small as a grain of mustard seed, that would be enough to do the impossible.
Jesus did not teach that we need to build up our â€œfaithâ€•; instead, He knew that our heavenly Father has given to each of us â€œThe Measureâ€• of faith, and that is more than enough.

If Peter believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
Why didnâ€™t he teach it after he and John had healed the lame man at the gate called Beautiful?
This would have been the perfect time to teach â€œthe faith messageâ€• to those who were wondering how this healing had occurred. Peter would have explained that it was his own Spiritual Substance of Power, his own Spiritual Prowess, which came from his own Great Faith that healed this man.

Instead, Peter told them:
Why do you look so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
Peter then preaches Jesus The Messiah to them and reveals how the man was healed:
And His name; Jesusâ€™ Name, Authority, Character; through persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in Jesusâ€™ Name, Authority, Character, has made this man strong. Luke 9:1-2, 10:1,9,16-17
Peter tells them it was Jesus The Messiah who healed this man not their own â€œspiritual

prowessâ€•.

If Paul believed the â€œfaith messageâ€•:
He would have told Timothy to continue drinking that contaminated water and â€œbelieve Godâ€• to make it pure for him.
He also would have â€œconfessedâ€• perfect health over both Timothy and Trophimus.

Instead, Paul told Timothy:
Do not drink the water any longer [because it is contaminated], but use a little wine for your stomach's sake [it will help heal your stomach sickness] and your often infirmities. Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

*** Which Gospel? God's or Man's? ***

Back to â€œJmanâ€™sâ€• insightful statement: â€œNo faith standsâ€¦ until we figure out why the signs and wonders are missing. Something is wrong.â€•

Jesus told us to â€œgo into the whole world, and preach the gospel to everyone. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming The Word with signs following. Amen.â€•

The answer is clear when you understand what Jesus said He would confirm with signs following.

Jesus promised to confirm only one thing with signs following: â€œThe Gospel according to Godâ€™s Wordâ€•.
If there are no signs, it is because we are preaching a different Gospel; not the Gospel according to Godâ€™s Word!

The â€œfaith messageâ€• is a false gospel.

The Biblical word gospel means: a good message.

G2098 euaggelion From the same as G2097; a good message, that is, the gospel: - gospel.

The â€œgospelâ€• is the foundational message upon which all of your beliefs rest.
The "gospelâ€• is the message of salvation by grace through the sacrifice of Jesus which restores

us to a right standing with God.
The "gospelâ€• is the message that we tell everyone as we evangelize the world in obedience to Jesus who commanded us to:
Go into all the world, and preach the good message of salvation through Jesusâ€™ death on the cross, to every creature.
He that is persuaded by the good message, and believes the good message, and is baptized shall be saved;
but he that does not believe [The gospel/good message] shall be damned.

If you believe a false gospel (your foundational message) you are not a Christian, because, there is only one gospel.

I marvel that you are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is really no gospel at all;
except there are certain people who trouble you, and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ.
But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto
you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than
that you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I
yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I declare to you, brethren, that the gospel which was
preached of me is not made up by man.

As a Christian, I am only interested in what God means when He uses a word.
What does the word faith or sub-stance mean according to Godâ€™s Word The Bible?
The words believe and faith are related to each other. They have similar meanings. (see above: G4104, pistis; G3982, peitho; and G4100, pisteuo)
Except for Heb 10:23 (which is the word G1680, elpis; which means expectation or confidence) every time the word â€œfaithâ€• is used in the New Testament (regardless of which verse you are using) it is the same word pistis, it means the same thing: persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God.
And sub-stance means: hupostasis: under (sub); and to stand (stance); a setting under (support) or foundation.

The â€œfaithâ€• of â€œThe Faith Messageâ€• is based upon an incorrect English translation and a misunderstanding of the definitions of two Greek words, pistis (faith) and hupostasis (sub-stance).
And,
An unbiblical, foundational emphasis based on only four words: â€œfaith is the substanceâ€•:

Which is believed to mean: â€œfaith is a spiritual substanceâ€•, â€œa spiritual substance of powerâ€•.

The â€œfaith messageâ€• teaches faith as a work that we are responsible to produce for ourselves, for our own salvation: Thy Faith Has Saved Thee! You must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling!

The Biblical word â€œfaithâ€• cannot be the foundation for a belief in a mystical, spiritual substance of â€œpowerâ€• released by us when we truly â€œbelieveâ€• because: faith means persuasion, belief, trust and reliance in God: and, sub-stance means foundation.

The â€œfaith messageâ€• is a false gospel designed by men, who â€œuseâ€• Godâ€™s Word to teach unbiblical doctrines that seem correct/Biblical to those of us who are following them, because, they â€œuseâ€• the Bible to â€œproveâ€• their unorthodox teachings as â€œchristianâ€•.
These men apply a form of â€œbiblicalâ€• interpretation called eisegesis; which allows them to interject their own personal ideas/beliefs/understanding into their â€œinterpretationâ€• of the bible; which they then present as â€œbiblicalâ€• by means of biblical â€œproof-textingâ€•. They start by taking their own unbiblical doctrine(s) and then â€œseek outâ€• verses that say/prove what they believe; providing â€œproofâ€• from the â€œtextâ€• of the bible that it is â€œbiblicalâ€•. This often requires that certain words, or even whole verses, be taken out of their context, in order to be â€œunderstoodâ€• as they need/wish them to be.

Take for instance the teaching that we alone are responsible to keep ourselves â€œsavedâ€•; which was (along with other verses) proof-texted with : â€œYou must work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.â€•
Sounds right, it is what the Bible says. But, we were never told to read the second half of the verse, which adds:
â€œBecause it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.â€•
The balance provided by Godâ€™s word, persuades us that we can believe Him and trust in Him and rely on Him, to make sure that we not only desire to do His will; but, that God our Father, will empower us, by His Grace, to actually do His will.

This one should be very familiar:
We were taught to be careful about the words that we speak, because, just like God, we have the â€œpowerâ€• to â€œspeak things into beingâ€•. And, because we have this â€œpowerâ€•, we must not make any â€œnegative confessionsâ€• which can â€œsnareâ€• us, and cause us to not receive whatever it is we are â€œconfessing into beingâ€•.
And the proof-text offered for this â€œbiblical truthâ€•:
â€œYou are snared by the words of your mouth, you are taken by the words of your mouth.â€•
But when you look at the context of this verse, you find that, once again, it is only half of the sentence; which in context actually reads:

â€œMy son, if you are surety for your friend [co-signer of his loan], if you have stricken your hand with a stranger [given your word that you will do something],
You are snared by the words of your mouth, you are taken by the words of your mouth.â€•
This simply means that, if a friend asks you to be a co-signer of his loan; and you promise that you will take on this obligation; or you promise to do something for a stranger:
Because â€œyou gave your wordâ€•; you are obligated (â€œsnaredâ€•) to keep your word/promise. Because, as a follower of The God of The Bible, Who says regarding promises He makes: â€œGod is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: has He said, and shall He not do it? or has He spoken, and shall He not make it good?â€•: we are also required to keep our word whenever we give it. Matthew 5:37

*** The Root of the "Faith Message" ***

I know that Hobart Freeman told us not to look into Kenyonâ€™s past or teachings; but, after I left the â€œchurchâ€•, I did.
I needed to find out what was wrong with what I believed.

The â€œfaith messageâ€•, as it is currently believed/practiced, began with the teachings of a man named E.W. Kenyon.
Kenneth Hagin plagiarized Kenyon's "faith message"; and he taught it to Hobart Freeman and all the other "faith" teachers.

You may remember Tom Hamiltonâ€™s adage:
â€œPeople say that what we teach sounds like â€œchristian scienceâ€•! Itâ€™s not â€œchristian scienceâ€•; itâ€™s christian sense.â€•

In 1892, E.W. Kenyon attended Emerson College, a â€œspiritualâ€• institution inundated with metaphysical, cultic ideas and practices. Unitarianism, Metaphysics, New Thought, and Mary Baker Eddyâ€™s â€œchristian scienceâ€• were some of the â€œspiritualâ€• influences advocated and taught to students at this school.
Charles Mallory, a frequent guest lecturer at the college, said of Emerson College, This is a school where the philosophy of life is taught. It ought to be called, â€œThe First Church of Emerson.â€•
The college was named for its founder Charles Wesley Emerson, who was a believer in, and an advocate of:
Unitarianism, Metaphysics, New Thought, Mary Baker Eddyâ€™s â€œchristian scienceâ€•, and Phineas P. Quimby (Eddyâ€™s mentor).

*** Believing/Following/Obeying God or Men ***

Jesus explains why people do not believe what He says:
You do not believe [what I say], because you are not of My sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
He that is of God hears, listens to, and obeys God's words: you therefore do not hear, listen to, and obey them, because you are not of God.

This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.
But in vain do they worship me, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.
You ignore God's commandments, and you are holding on to the teachings that men have made up.
And He said unto them, Full well you reject the commandment of God, so that you may keep your own tradition.

Either we are following the teachings of men or we are following God according to His Word.
The following story illustrates the point:

Not long ago, my wife and I invited an â€œassistant pastorâ€• (he held a job as a â€œpastorâ€• for 25 years) from a local â€œBaptistâ€• â€œchurchâ€• to have him look into Godâ€™s Word with us to discuss the doctrines we hold as being Biblical i.e., clearly taught in the Bible. We thought we would start with something easy, like marriage/divorce/and remarriage, or tongues. We have often wondered how a Christian could possibly ignore the clear definition of adultery given by Jesus in Matthew 19:3-12, and allow anyone to remarry; regardless of Jesusâ€™ one and only exception for remarriage; or annul the Biblical truth of â€œtonguesâ€• as plainly taught in 1Corinthians 14; I was hoping to dispel the misunderstanding about tongues, that comes from not recognizing that God is speaking about three different â€œkindsâ€• of tongues in this chapter.

I thought the best way to start was to have us read these verses together, and then talk about them: simple enough?
Butâ€¦
As our friend started to â€œreadâ€• from his Bible, my wife and I tried to follow along with him but couldnâ€™t. We were all using the King James Version; yet, not even one word that he â€œreadâ€• from his Bible could be found in our King James Bibles. At first this caused much confusion; where are the words that he is â€œreadingâ€• from his bible? Why arenâ€™t those words in our Bibles?

Then it dawned on us what was happening:
Instead of reading Godâ€™s Word to guide us/teach us about tonguesâ€¦ he was â€œreadingâ€• into his bible the â€œBaptistâ€• doctrine of how â€œtonguesâ€• had passed away and were no longer necessary for the â€œchurchâ€• during this time etc., etc., etc.

This not only astounded us, it became a valuable lesson, illustrating a serious problem endemic in the â€œchurchâ€• and in â€œchristiansâ€•:

They cannot read, believe, understand, follow, or obey Godâ€™s Word; because they only read, believe, understand, follow and obey the doctrines of men.

This man was hoping to indoctrinate us into the â€œBaptistâ€• â€œteachingâ€• about â€œtonguesâ€•.
What he did not know was that we are Jesusâ€™ sheep, Christians, who know, believe and follow God/Godâ€™s Word. We cannot follow manâ€™s teachings.

Without knowing it, this â€œpastorâ€• became the â€œposter-boyâ€• to illustrate exactly what is wrong with the â€œchurchâ€• at this point in time: when â€œchristiansâ€• â€œreadâ€• Godâ€™s Word, they can only hear what men told them to hear; they can only believe what men told them to believe; they can only understand what men told them to understand.

This â€œpastorâ€• was incapable of even reading Godâ€™s Word without interjecting manâ€™s interpretation/doctrines directly into the text of the Bible as he â€œreadsâ€• it.

This is frightening! Imagine what it would be like to never again hear from God through His Word. To only believe and follow what men tell you to believe and follow? To be incapable of reading Godâ€™s Word without filtering it through manâ€™s ideas/interpretation/doctrines/beliefs. To always read Godâ€™s Word with a veil over your heart and mind.
Their minds were blinded: for until this day remains the same veil not taken away in the reading of Godâ€™s Word; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Godâ€™s Word is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away. Matthew 13:9, 13-15
They teach man-made ideas as if they were the Word of God.

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I believe Godâ€™s people today are in the same position they were in when Jesus first came to turn them back to God/Godâ€™s Word: they didnâ€™t believe or even know the Word of God anymore, because their â€œreligiousâ€• â€œleadersâ€• were teaching their own doctrines and not The Word of God. Mark 1:22,27, 11:18, Luke 4:32,36, John 7:15-17, Matthew 7:28, 22:33, 2 Cor 2:17, Colossians 2:18-22 2Tim 4:1-4, Titus 1:9-16

In the Bible, Christians are those who believe, trust and follow Jesus the Messiah. The Jesus revealed in Godâ€™s Word.

Throughout my life I have met, and know of, many people who identify themselves as:
â€œCatholicsâ€•
â€œJehovahâ€™s Witnessâ€™â€•
â€œLutheransâ€•
â€œRed Letter christiansâ€•
â€œBaptistsâ€•
â€œMethodistsâ€•
â€œMormonsâ€•
â€œCharismaticsâ€•
â€œOvercomersâ€•

And they admit they are following:
The Pope/church
The Watchtower/Awake/prophets
Martin Luther/church
The Social gospel/socialist/communist/â€•reformersâ€•
Baptist teachings?
The Social gospel/socialist/communist/â€•reformersâ€•
The Book of Mormon/Joseph Smith/Brigham Young/prophets
Anointed teachers/apostles/prophets/the Holy Spirit/the still small inner voice/personal revelations/â€•revelation knowledgeâ€•
The Faith Message/anointed teachers/apostles/prophets/the Holy Spirit/the still small inner voice/personal revelations/â€•revelation knowledgeâ€•

I once found someone online who had almost the exact/same testimony as mine, except, at the end of my testimony,
I became a Christian, a follower of Jesus The Messiah.
And at the end of his testimony, he became a â€œchristianâ€• AND, a â€œLutheranâ€•.

â€œchristiansâ€• are unsaved â€œreligiousâ€• people who are following men instead of following Jesus through Godâ€™s Word.
All the unbiblical beliefs that they hold to while disregarding the clear teaching of Godâ€™s Word to the contrary, are proof that they are following men and not God: Infant baptism, â€œSacramentsâ€•, the â€œEucharistâ€•, the â€œMassâ€•, if you go to â€œchurchâ€• you are a â€œchristianâ€•, etc.

These are more beliefs, taught by men, which are not found anywhere in the New Testament:

â€œPleading The Blood of Jesusâ€•,
â€œBelieveing God Forâ€•,
â€œAnointedâ€• teachers,

Only â€œanointedâ€• teachers can â€œteachâ€• Godâ€™s Word,
â€œThe Fresh Bread from Heavenâ€•/â€œThe New Word of Godâ€•,
â€œTouch not the Lordâ€™s anointed!â€•
Negative/positive â€œconfessionsâ€•,
We have the power to â€œspeak things into beingâ€•, just like God,
Christians calling themselves â€œThe End Time Army of Godâ€•,
Christians calling themselves â€œOvercomersâ€•,
Christians living a â€œDeeper Lifeâ€•,
â€œThe faith messageâ€• i.e., faith is a Spiritual Power.

*** Return to God's Word The Bible ***

When I started my journey with Messiah Jesus, my wife, my two brothers and I used to sit around with our Bibles open and talk about The Word of God. We used to discuss the Scriptures we had read, and wonder at how great God is. Those days were a great time of fellowship with each other around Godâ€™s Word. But, those times of sharing Godâ€™s Word ended when we joined â€œfaith assemblyâ€• and I lost Christian fellowship with my brothers.

My first love was Jesus/God's Word. I would read my Bible (ten chapters) every day and talk about Jesus/Godâ€™s Word with every person I met. Deut 6:6-7.
This is what I believe Jesus meant about us recognizing that we had forsaken our first love, to remember where we were (spiritually) before we fell, and to stop going any farther in the wrong direction and repent (turn around), and do the first works again. Rev 2:4-5

God â€œwoke me upâ€• when I returned to my first love, about six years ago.
Now this is what I am holding on to: the salvation of my heart, soul, mind, body, and spirit by the Grace of God, which is the power of God, to keep me saved, and to keep me safe with Him, now and for all eternity.

I am persuaded by what God says to me in The Bible,
To believe what God says to me in The Bible,
To trust in God as my heavenly Father,
And to rely on my heavenly Father, to keep the promises, that He has persuaded me to believe.

If you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

Set Free by Jesus: The Word of God.

His servant and yours

Tom

Please! Read my entire testimony â€œHow I Met The God Of The Bibleâ€• in â€œIntroductions and Generalâ€•.
It will help you to understand why I cannot/will not follow or believe the teachings of men.
The foundation for all of my beliefs was, and always will be Godâ€™s Word The Bible.
(Except for the six-year detour, when I followed/believed the faith message/Hobart Freeman.)

Please! Read and carefully consider this entire post before you bring up any questions.

Please! Look up the words â€œfaithâ€• and â€œsubstanceâ€• in â€œStrongâ€™s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bibleâ€• before you bring up any questions.

Please! Letâ€™s stay on one subject at a time.

Please! Respond only to the main topic of this post which is:

The â€œfaith messageâ€• is a false gospel based upon man-made ideas about â€œfaithâ€• being a Spiritual Substance of Power.
The entire foundation for their false gospel stands upon two mistranslated words: faith (is the) substance.
Which they falsely interpret as: faith is a Spiritual Substance, a Spiritual Substance of Power.
And so they misunderstand Heb 11:1 to say: Trust in My Own Spiritual Substance of Power is the only way I can obtain everything I hope for,
my Own Spiritual Substance of Power stands in the place of things I am "believing God for" but haven't yet seen.

But, Godâ€™s Word says:

Persuasion in God's Word, belief in God, trust in God and reliance on God alone, is the foundation of everything that I hope for,
persuasion in God's Word, belief in God, trust in God and reliance on God alone, is all the evidence I need to believe I will see Him fulfill all of His promises.

Biblical faith means:

God reasons with us through His Word The Bible,
and through His Word He persuades us to believe what He says,
which causes us to trust in Him and to rely on Him alone to fulfill His promises.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Sat, 22 Jun 2013 23:59:09 GMT
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Hi Bro. I did as you said and carefully read through your comments.

My response is again that you do not understand either the faith message or what Hef taught.

Here is one eg among many:

He believed that God cannot save us from our selves; from our own natural tendency to wander away from Him.
Freeman taught that God can save us; but, God cannot keep us saved: staying saved depends entirely on us.

That is just totally and completely wrong. And it is only one eg out of many. I can't speak to what all the teachers at FA and its affiliates taught but I can speak to what Hef taught. I also don't know anyone in the faith message that believes that.

You do not understand either what you are teaching or what what Hef taught.

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Mark L on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 01:02:53 GMT
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I also don't know anyone in the faith message that believes that.

I said that but want to add that with all the splintering that has gone on and everything from hardliners to faith lite even on our board here its possible that some somewhere believe it.

edited to change faith light to faith lite

Subject: Re: There's Power in the Blood
Posted by Gary on Mon, 24 Jun 2013 09:17:28 GMT
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Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.