

Faithfulness of God versus the Instability of Humans

The Contrast between the faith of the World and faith in the Lord

Why does powerful hurtful consequences not stop sin?

Ray Boltz is convinced God made him to be homosexual so he believes he will not be sent to hell for being homosexual. "This is what it really comes down to," he says. "If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I'm going to live. It's not like God made me this way and he'll send me to hell if I am who he created me to be ... I really feel closer to God because I no longer hate myself."

<http://www.calvarychapelsweetwater.com/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=49615&columnid=>

It appears he is going by how he feels rather than what the Bible Says. If he, being famous is ok, everyone else must be ok too.

Truth: [Gen 1:27 NLT] 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God made Mr. Boltz to be a man. God created woman for man. Ray freely chose his path. His path has consequences.

Billy Graham was convinced God is the creator of the Universe, Jesus is the Savior of the world, and the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. He had doubts. In the face of his doubts about the Bible, Billy Graham read the Bible. He read (it seems) verse after verse. He thought about Jesus' attitude to the Scriptures and how he held them in the highest authority. That night was only a start: The conviction that Graham eventually came to arrived a few days later. I think this is very instructive. Too often when we have doubts about the Bible we look elsewhere – we seek to buttress the Bible from other sources. But Billy Graham shows us that fundamentally doubts about the Bible are resolved by reading the Bible!

Truth: Dr. Graham freely chose his path after seeking the Lord. His path has consequences. He is now in the presence of the King

Introduction:

Where's Your Faith?

Finishers Win! Many Started on the Right Path

Hold On to the End. He is Holding on to You.

How to Hold On to the End

Text: [2Th 3:3 KJV] 3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep [you] from evil.

[2Th 3:3 NLT] 3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

Where does your faith lie? What should we believe?

I am not here serving in the Church for what I can do. I am serving because of what I believe. God doesn't want you here in His church for what you can do. He wants you serve in His church because you believe in the one and only Lord God of the Universe.

Is your faith in

Your feelings? Human Nature? Your abilities?

Put your faith Where it Belongs

in Jesus Christ, the Messiah and in the Word of God

Some believe for a time.

[Luk 8:13 KJV] 13 They on the rock [are they], which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

The Blind Man's Faith

[Mat 9:28 KJV] 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Repent and Believe the Gospel Message.

[Mar 1:15 KJV] 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

[Rom 10:9 KJV] 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

[Jhn 6:29 KJV] 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

[Jhn 17:20 KJV] 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Believe God's Word

[Gal 3:22 KJV] 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

[1Jo 5:13 KJV] 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Asa (third king of Judah after the kingdom split) started with faith in the Living God.

[2Ch 14:9-14 KJV] 9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. 10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. 11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, [it is] nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou [art] our God; let not man prevail against thee. 12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. 13 And Asa and the people that [were] with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. 14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

God Supported his Faithfulness in a message to Asa.

[2Ch 15:2 KJV] 2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD [is] with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Asa Became Arrogant

[2Ch 16:1-3 KJV] 1 In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, 3 [There is] a league between me and thee, as [there was] between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.

God's message to Asa.

[2Ch 16:7-9 KJV] 7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Asa's reaction to the Message.

[2Ch 16:10 KJV] 10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for [he was] in a rage with him because of this [thing]. And Asa oppressed [some] of the people the same time.

[2Ch 16:12 KJV] 12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease [was] exceeding [great]: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

Hold On to Jesus.

[2Th 3:3 NLT] 3 But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.

He is Faithful

[1Th 5:24 KJV] 24 Faithful [is] he that calleth you, who also will do [it].

He will strengthen you

[Psa 27:14 KJV] 14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

[Psa 31:24 KJV] 24 Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.

He uses challenges to strengthen and establish us

[1Pe 5:10 KJV] 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you].

He will establish you

[1Pe 5:10 KJV] 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you].

[Pro 15:25 KJV] 25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

How Can we Hold On to Jesus?

Focus on his Abilities and His Faithfulness.

Living by God's promises is comparable to living by His grace. In both perspectives, the critical matter is having God at work in our lives, doing what He alone can do, doing what we could never deserve or never produce on our own. In considering God's promises, we have allowed the Lord to increase our confidence in His promises by focusing first on His ability, and now on His faithfulness. Our present verse proclaims God's faithfulness, while adding a two-fold promise concerning high priority issues of Christian living.

God Called Us into Fellowship with Him.

[1Co 1:9 KJV] 9 God [is] faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Focus on Who is in Charge?

"The Lord is faithful, who will...guard you from the evil one." We are God's sheep. "Know that the LORD, He is God...We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

He will establish us when it is our choice.

The Lord wants to turn us into responsible and steadfast servants of God. He will be faithful to do this, if we humbly open our hearts to the work of His word and His Spirit.

Sheep do not do well against lions. However, we have a wonderful shepherd, who will not flee when the attack comes. "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own" (John 10:13-14).

God is now and will forever be in charge.

[Rom 9:15-16 KJV] 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then [it is] not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

[Rom 9:15-16 NLT] 15 For God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose." 16 So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

He can Keep Us from Falling

[Jde 1:24 KJV] 24 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,