

We Must Have True Faith

To many Christians Christ is little more than an idea, or at best an ideal, He is not a fact.

Millions of professing believers talk as if Jesus Christ is real but then act as if He were not.

Our actual belief is always discovered by the way we act, not by the way we talk.

James 2:14-20 [NIV] *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and **I will show you my faith by what I do.** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?”*

It may shock some of us profoundly if we were brought suddenly face to face with our beliefs and forced to test them in the fires of practical living, on a day-to-day basis.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 [NLT] *“The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”*

Many of us Christians have become extremely skilful in arranging our lives so as to be able to admit the truth of Christianity without being embarrassed by its implications.

We seek to fix things so that we can get on well in life without divine aid.

We boast in the Lord but watch carefully that we are never caught depending on Him.

Pseudo-faith always arranges a way out of a problem in case God fails to bring us out of the problem.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 [NIV] *“So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And **God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.”*

True faith is to believe and rely on this promise that God has made.

A person of pseudo-faith will fight for their verbal creed but refuse flatly to allow themselves to be led by God into a situation where their future must depend upon that creed being true.

Such people always provide themselves with secondary ways of escape so that they will have a way out if the roof caves in.

But remember for all of us there is surely coming a time when we will have nothing but God to see us through the situation. Such a time is when we face death.

We all need very badly to prepare ourselves for this inevitable time by learning to trust God’s Word in which we find many promises, on a day-to-day basis.

When we face death, health, wealth, friends and all hiding places are swept away and we will only have God.

To the person with pseudo-faith this can be a terrifying thought, but a person with true practised faith it is a time of great comfort.

Surely it would be better now to invite God to remove every false trust, to reject every hiding place and to bring us out into the open where we can discover for ourselves whether or not we really do trust God; that is, whether we do have true faith.

Time to prove our faith is running out for all of us.