

“Thoroughly Equipped” Part 3 “Faith Defines Us”

“Faith” is a term that is used a lot inside and outside of Christianity. We hear phrases like

- “You just got to have faith!”
 - “Just believe” (especially around Christmas)
 - “Don’t lose the faith”
- a. When people use these phrases, what is your perception of what they mean by “faith”?

Here are a few passages from the Bible that describe “faith.” Does your definition change at all? How?

- Hebrews 11:1-2 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.
- John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”
28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”
29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Look at the sermon Scripture from today.

- a) What is the difference between “faith” and “saving faith”?
- b) Why is faith in Jesus “saving faith”?
- c) Sometimes individuals quip, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere in your belief.” How would you respond...especially in a discussion about eternal life.

Romans 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.