

Flickering Faith

***So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
Romans 10.17***

Faith is a gift

Ephesians

2.8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

6.23 *Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Misdirected Faith

Jeremiah 7.4 *Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'*

Meager Faith

Luke 17.5 *The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"*

Mark 9.24 *"I believe; help my unbelief!"*

[Reading from Thomas Brooks, *Heaven on Earth* pp. 214ff. on Strong and Weak Faith].

Object of Faith

Faith not in reason

Faith not in theology

Faith in a person.

John 3.36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

Who is this Person:

- His **character**

- His *deeds*

- His promises

John 10.22-29

22 *At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."*

Dangers

1. Looking for reasons for unbelief - speculation
2. Looking for exhaustive comprehension - presumption
3. Having wrong views of God
 - God is demanding, without providing
 - God is sovereign, but not empathetic
 - God is friendly, but not holy.

Remedy

The importance of 'today'

Today - repent

Do not harden your hearts

Repent of unbelief.

Mark 1.15 *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel*

2 Cor 6.2 Today is day of salvation.

John 20.27 *Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."*