

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, October 3rd

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Isaiah 29:13-24)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass
Lord's Supper
Presiding Scottie Goode
Assisting Brian Word
Serving Mark McCrary
..... Mike Rogers
..... Aric Butler
..... Ethan Pressnell
Closing Prayer
..... Monroe Pressnell

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Claus Martel
Bible Reading (Isaiah 30:1-18)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Larry White
Lord's Supper
..... Scottie Goode
..... Brian Word
Closing Prayer
..... Andrew Gatlin

Volume XI

October 3, 2004

No. 39

"What Is Faith?"

David Posey

The subject of "faith" should not be controversial, but it is. Why? Maybe it's because some people view it subjectively than objectively.

That is, many tend to think faith is based on a feeling instead of on facts. For example, people will express "faith" in someone or something when what they mean is that they trust this person or thing, *regardless of the evidence.*

Paul said in Romans 10:17, however, that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." If that is so, then faith cannot come from feelings; it must be based on fact.

Spiritual faith is as real as the Word of God, because it comes from it. Real faith, by definition, must come from a source outside of us. Our faith, if real, is based upon what God has said - His promises, commands and guidance. And it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2). The person of faith focuses on the Word of God, which is fact, and places his trust in God who spoke the words.

To illustrate, think of two young ladies who would like to be married and have resolved to choose a husband "by faith." Both have many suitors and are therefore confronted with many choices. One of these young women meets a man who makes her heart flutter, and decides "this is the one." When asked why she chose this man, she begins to talk about his good looks, his station in life and her excitement over having met such a "wonderful guy." Then she hastens to add, "But, I know God directed me to make this choice." When pressed to explain, she simply says, "I know in my heart that this is right."

The second young lady decides she is going to look beyond her feelings and make a logical choice. So she begins to study God's word to see what He has said on this subject. She doesn't find specific instruction on choosing a mate, but her thorough study provides her with some important principles. Primarily, she learns to look for someone who shares her goals and the same values. She searches for someone full of the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23) and who is characterized by the "Christian Graces" (2 Peter 1:5ff). She decides that she will not marry anyone who does not put God first. Her search takes longer, but she finally meets a man who meets these criteria.

When the second young lady was asked why she chose her fiance, she too talked about his good looks, his station in life, and her excitement in having met such a wonderful guy. Then she said, "But most of all, my faith led me to search for a person who is a Christian first; I'm convinced that is what God wanted me to do." Then she said, "I know in my heart that this is right." Which young woman really acted on faith? Both chose a man who touched their hearts, but the first young lady simply did what she wanted to do and called it faith. Only the second woman pursued a course of action that demonstrated that she understands what faith really is - reliance on God in making every decision. She allowed God to direct her steps (cf. Jeremiah 10:23). She was wise enough to look past the present situation and her feelings and use God's facts to help her choose. While her faith cannot provide absolute certainty about how everything will turn out in the future, she has done God's will and therefore, she has, in this instance, "walked by faith not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

-via *The Folsom Point View*, Folsom, California.

Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

"Your Report"

Curtis E. Flatt

I have been told that somewhere in some computer bank there is a credit report which often includes more than finance matters on nearly every one of us. In recent times there has been much ado in some quarters about the inaccuracies of some of these reports. Even if the report is accurate, it may be good or it may be bad depending upon how we have conducted ourselves. Whether we like it or not, there is such a report. The same thing is true in reference to spiritual things, too. Some day all of this will be known. We sing about this:

*"Some day you'll stand at the bar on high,
Some day your record you'll see;..."*

Let us consider some things about "your report" as set forth in the Bible.

Good Or Bad?

Your report may vary from the report of the one who sits next to you. Some have a honest report. Those seven men in Acts 6:3 had such a report. Cornelius was a man of good report among all the nation of the Jews. (Acts 10:22) Those widows in 1 Timothy 5:10, who could be taken into the number, had to be well reported of. On the other hand, some have a bad report. The Corinthians had a report of being contentious (1 Corinthians 1:11). These also were reported to have a bad attitude toward sinful practices (1 Corinthians 5:1). That bad report may actually be a slanderous report as it was with Paul. (Romans 3:8) Thus, not only is there a report on all of us; the report may be good or it may be bad.

Origin?

Where does your report originate? In your temporal report the material comes from all kinds of sources. Many make their living compiling your report. In spiritual matters, your report may be made by outsiders—people who are not a part of the body of Christ. Concerning men being qualified for elders of the church, in 1 Timothy

3:7, we find that such a one must have a good report from them which are without. But all of us have such sources of report, too. On the other hand, this report may originate from brethren in the Lord. In Acts 16:2, we find that Timothy was well reported of the brethren. Demetrius had a good report of all men—from without and from within (3 John 12). Then, the Lord makes his own record of each of us. He has a book of life for all of us (Revelation 3:5). Eventually we will be judged by our record (Revelation 20:13).

Basis Of The Report

In your temporal report, your financial transactions, your legal actions, your real estate purchases, your enemies' actions, and a host of things go together to make your report. In your report as a Christian, your works may be the basis of your report (1 Timothy 5:10). Your faith will be the basis of your report. Hebrews 11:2 tells of some who had obtained a good report by virtue of their faith. Your report may come because some have a grudge against you (Matthew 26:57-60). This has happened many times. The envy of some may be the basis of some items on your report (Matthew 27:18). The prejudice of some may show up in your report (Romans 3:8). Then, as sad as it may be, our own sinful actions contribute to our report also (1 Corinthians 1:11).

Results Of Your Report

What will be the consequences of your report? These reports are not made as a passing fancy. If your temporal report is good, you will be granted certain requests when you ask for them. If your temporal report is bad, you will likely be denied your requests when you ask for them. In your report as a Christian, if your report is bad, you may become discouraged as Israel was with the report of the spies. Certainly the Lord will deny you what you want at the end of the way if you come with a bad report (Matthew 25:46). On the other hand, if your report is a good report, it will be a source of encouragement to others who are trying to do right. Recall the report of Paul. "Those things, which ye have

both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). Your good report may be a blessing even in temporal things, as with the widows of 1 Timothy 5:10. More importantly, your report, if it is a good one, will open heaven's gate for you.

-via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 25 No. 7; July 1993.

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Mattie Blanche Word* is in Mitchell-Hollingworth for rehabilitation ... *Curtis Cooper* continues to make progress in his recovery from his recent surgery... *Amber Hammond* has not been able to be up and out this week... *Willie Ridgeway* is at home and will soon begin radiation treatments ... *Jerry Dickey's mother, Pat Dickey*, is in the ECM hospital in Florence... *Helen Stewart's grandson, Adam Stewart*, is a week old and has kidney problems ... *Monroe Pressnell's aunt, Mildred Pressnell*, is in rehabilitation at HealthSouth in Huntsville ... *Hoyt Hammond* is at home not able to be out... *James McConnell's mother, Della Mae McConnell*, is at home ... *Kathy Smith's sister-in-law, Sue Gilliam*, is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments... *Marcia Cooper's and Brian Word's uncle, Paul McCafferty* is at the Countryside Nursing Home in Lawrenceburg... *Jerry Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson*, continues at home ... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

OUR MEETING: This past week we were engaged in a gospel meeting with brother Jim

Deason preaching. The lessons that Jim delivered were very good and timely. I know that all who were able to be present benefitted from these lessons. If you were unable to be here for the lessons, we can provide copies of the lessons on CD or DVD. Just let us know.

PREACHING TODAY: Today I am away beginning a gospel meeting and in my absence, **Mark McIntyre** will be preaching this morning and **Jimmy Glass** will be preaching this evening. I know that all of you will enjoy hearing these two men speak. I appreciate Mark and Jimmy and their willingness to fill in for me while I am away.

OUT OF TOWN: **Jerry Best** is away on vacation and will be back this week... **Jerry Dickey** has been working out of town this week.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Angie McCrary** and all the family in the passing of her cousin, **Ashley Fulks**, last weekend. His funeral was Sunday.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The **River Bend church** in western Lauderdale county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The services will begin each evening at 7:00 p.m. **Leon Mauldin** will be the speaker... The **Piney Grove church** south of Tuscumbia is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:00 p.m. **Dwight Edwards** will be the speaker... The **Posey church** in Franklin county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with services at 7:30 p.m. I will be the speaker in this meeting.

THE RECORD: For the week of September 26th

Sunday:

- Bible Classes 109
- Morning Worship 134
- Evening Worship 124

Wednesday:

- Bible Classes 99

Remember Our Evening Service at 6:00.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

- Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

- Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

- Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
- Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391
- Monroe Pressnell (256) 232-0780

Deacons

- Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
- Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
- Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
- Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
- Larry White (256) 247-0988
- Brian Word (256) 229-5823

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